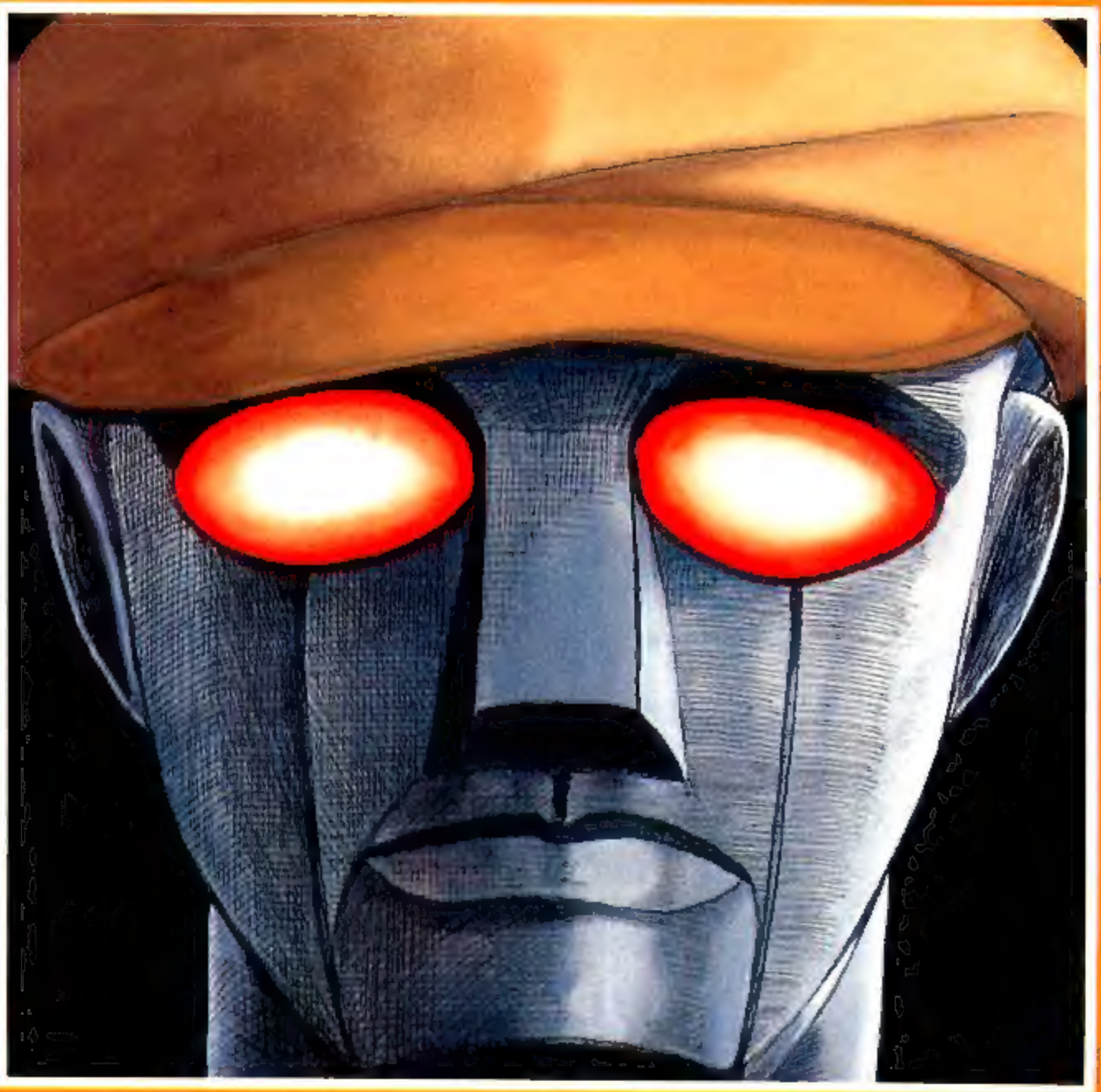
ロボット刑事

SUN WIDE COMICS

石森章太郎 1



石森章太郎

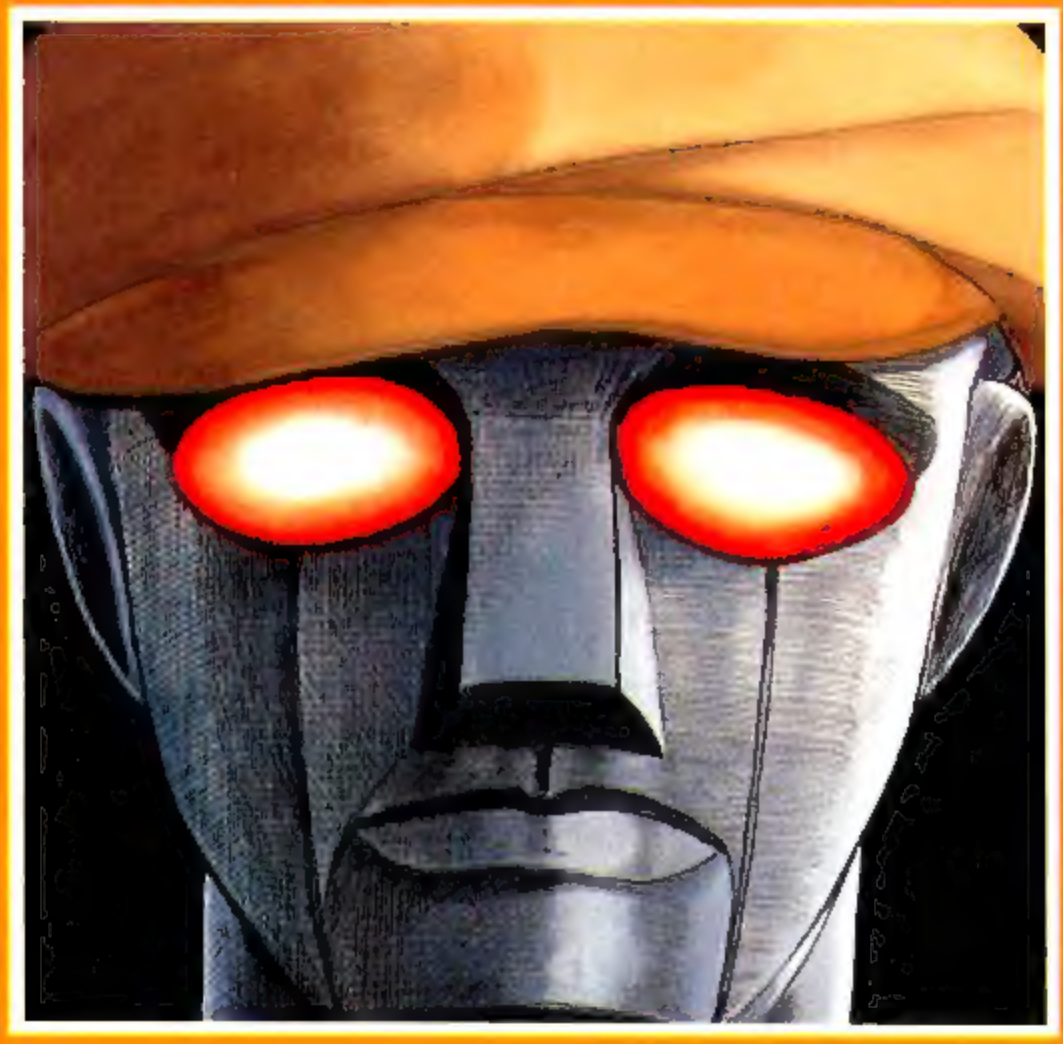
SUN WIDE COMICS

ロボット刑事

1

朝日ソノラマ

SUN WIDE COMICS



朝日ソノラマ
定価690円

ISBN4-257-96039-6 C8279 ¥690E

大東京の片隅——ここに頻発する
る凶悪犯罪と日夜対決するロボッ
ト刑事K（ケイ）！　〝マザー（マシン）〟のかくされ
れた秘密を軸に、機械対人間の哀
しい確執を描く入魂の推理劇！
石森章太郎の華麗な筆が冴える。

カバーレイアウト／上田 敬

ロボット刑事①

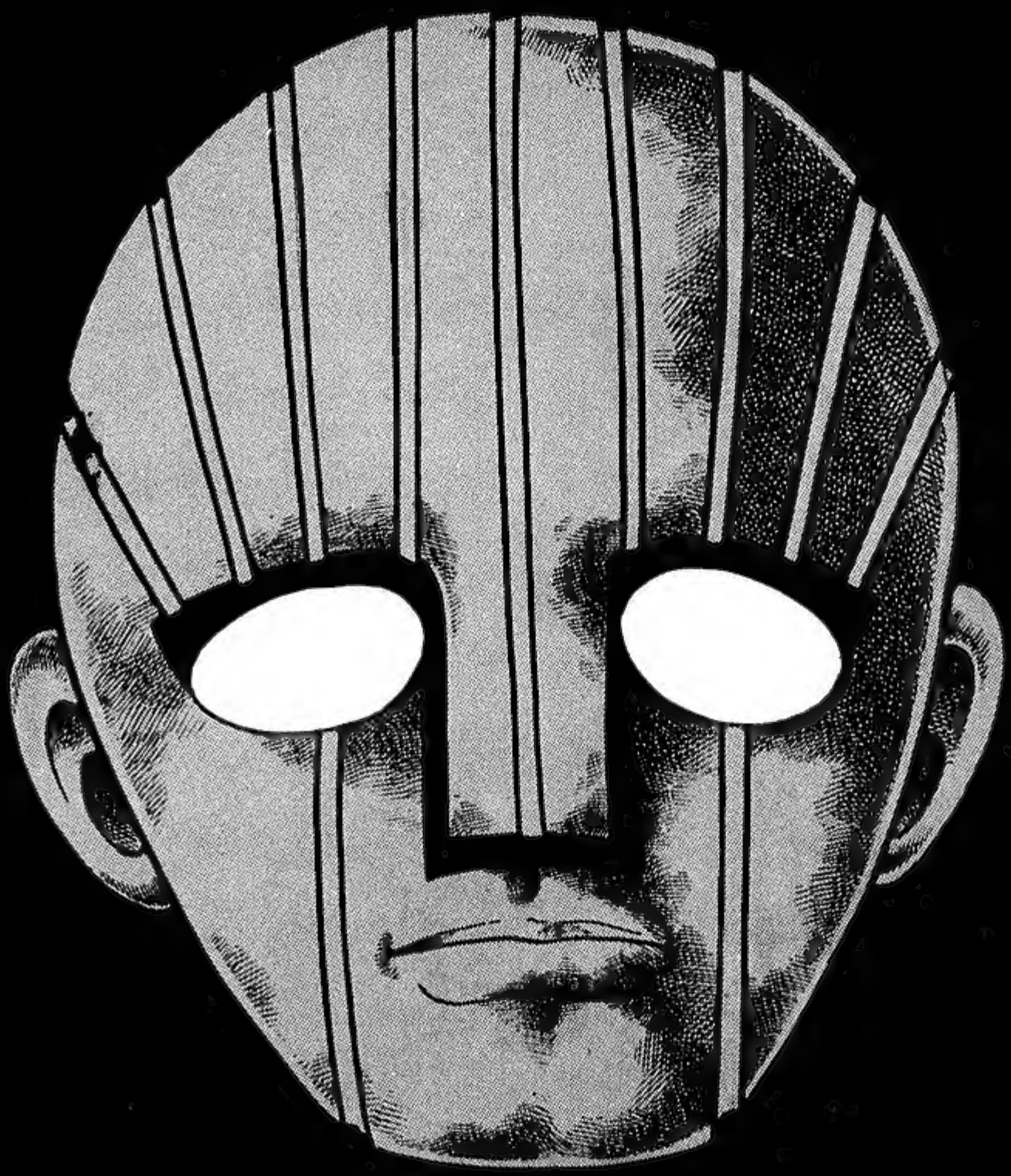
昭和60年5月25日初版発行

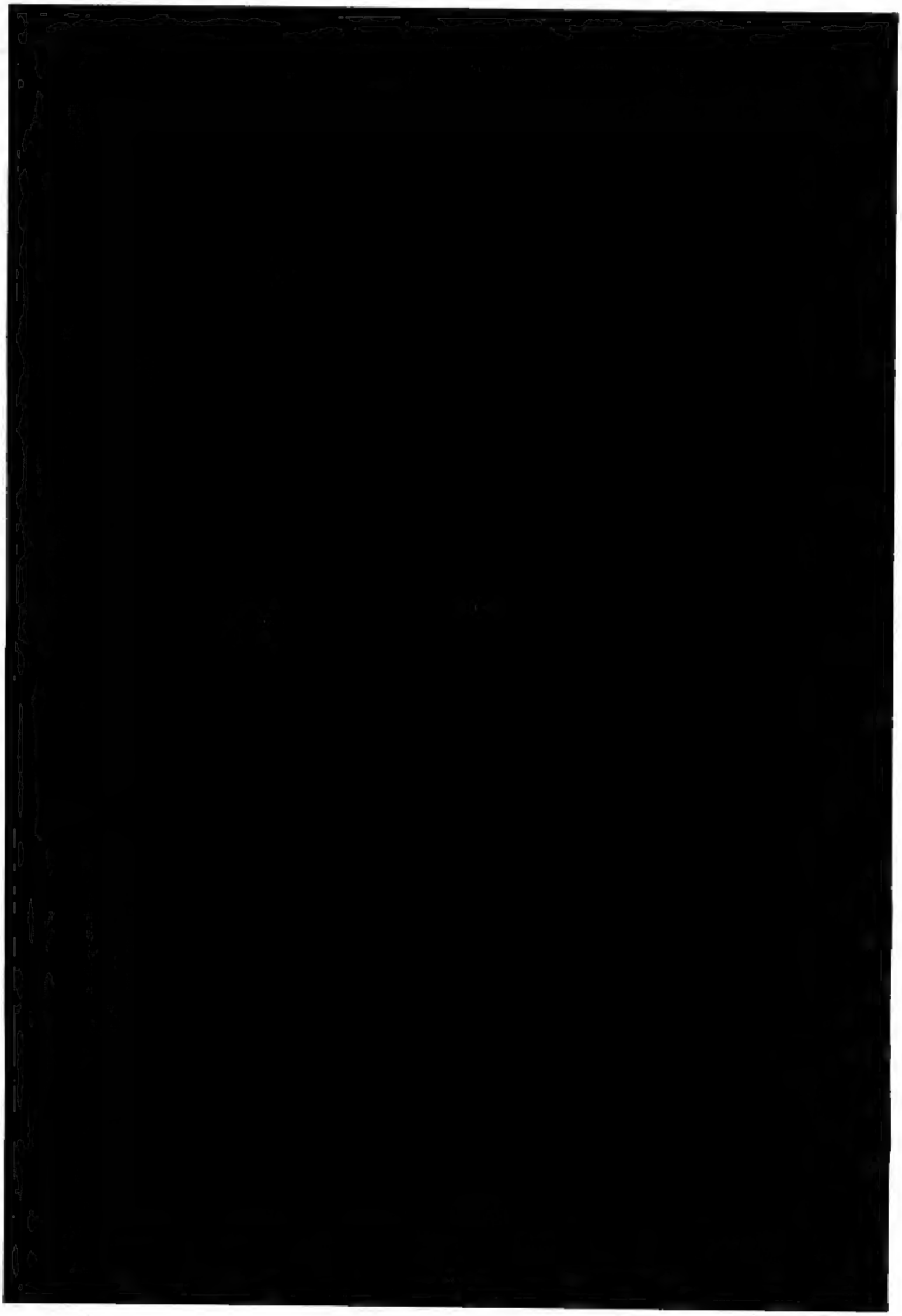
著者　石森章太郎
©Shotaro Ishimori
発行人　斎久村繁
印刷　フォト印刷株式会社
製本　大和製本株式会社

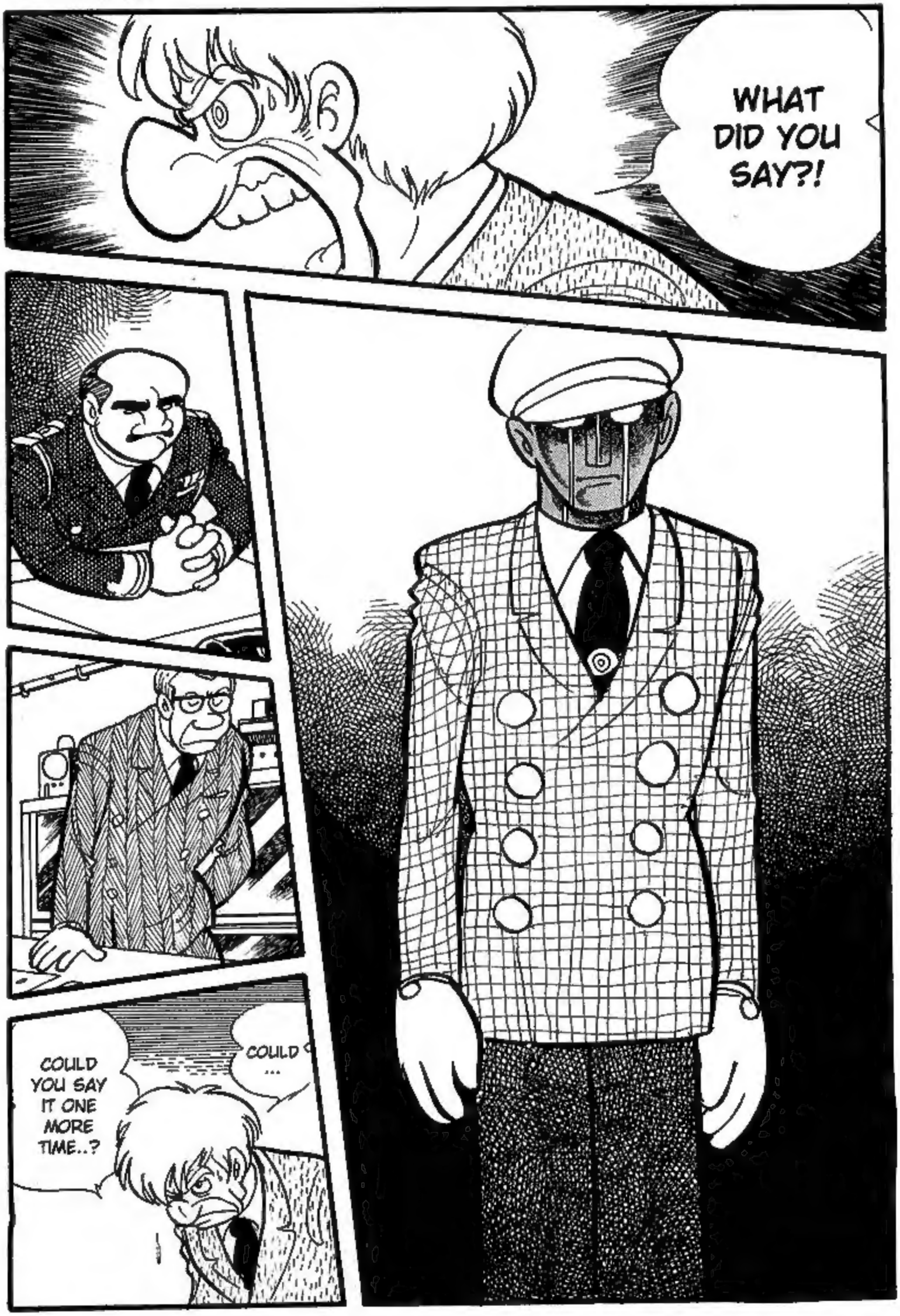
発行所　株式会社朝日ソノラマ
東京都中央区銀座4丁目2番6号　第2朝日ビル
郵便番号104
TEL(563)6021　振替 東京2-40311

ロボット刑事

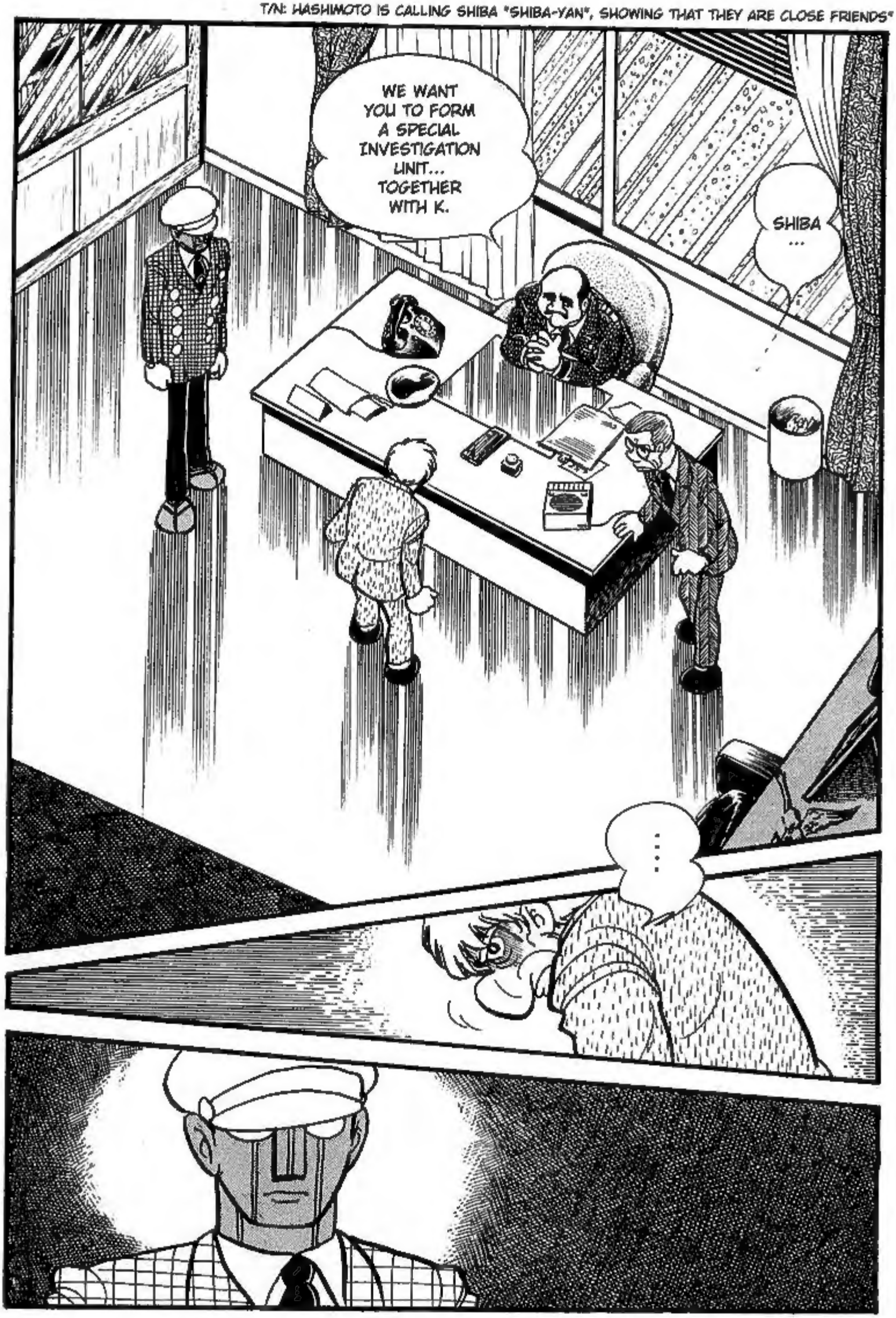
第1巻






WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
COULD ...
COULD YOU SAY IT ONE MORE TIME..?

T/N: HASHIMOTO IS CALLING SHIBA "SHIBA-YAN", SHOWING THAT THEY ARE CLOSE FRIENDS"



YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD TEAM UP WITH THIS MANNEQUIN...

HEH...

CHIEF... CAN YOU PLEASE STOP WITH THE BAD JOKES?

HEH!

HEH... HEHE HEHEH

HE'S AN EXTREMELY ADVANCED ROBOT!

AND TO ADD, K IS NOT A MANNEQUIN.... HE'S A ROBOT!

PRECISELY, THIS IS NOTHING BUT A JOKE

SHIBA, THIS IS NOT A JOKE!

HE'S AN ANDROID WITH ALL THE FUNCTIONS NEEDED TO MATCH... NO, SURPASS A HUMAN BEING!

HIS ABILITY IS THE REAL DEAL...

FOR THE LAST MONTH, WE HAVE BEEN SECRETLY CONDUCTING TEST TO PROVE IT, BUT...

AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT OF YOUR SKILL AND TRACK RECORD!

IS BECAUSE YOU ARE THE MOST VETERAN DETECTIVE IN THIS BUILDING,

SHIBA... THE REASON WE WANT YOU TO WORK WITH HIM... WITH K...

YES, A ROBOT DETECTIVE!

YOU CAN SAY K IS A TEST CASE... HE IS A MACHINE THAT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT TO OUR METHODS, HERE AT THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

EXACTLY!

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, ALL THE ADVANCES IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD IN THE PAST FEW YEARS...

ALL THAT TOOLS, ALL THAT CHEMICALS, NOT TO MENTION THE INVENTION OF COMPUTERS TO HELP US ON OUR INVESTIGATION...

K IS AN AMALGAMA-TION OF ALL THAT!

YOU STILL CAN'T TRUST SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN CRIME INVESTIGATIONS!
SHIBA, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
LET ME SAY THIS BLUNTLY...
NO, 'HATE' MIGHT BE A BETTER WAY TO PUT IT.
YOU MANAGED TO SOLVE NUMEROUS CASES, JUST WITH YOUR SKILLS AND INSTINCTS,
SO I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS
BUT KNOW THIS, SHIBA...
NOT TO MENTION ADMITTEDLY, THERE ARE CASES THAT CAN ONLY BE SOLVED WITH YOUR OLD FASHIONED WAY...
RECENTLY, THERE ARE NUMEROUS CASES WITH BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THEM, MAKING THEM IMPOSSIBLE TO SOLVE WITH ORTHODOX METHODS...
YOU SHOULD REALIZE THAT TIMES ARE CHANGING!
CASES THAT MAKES YOU THINK "THERE'S NO WAY A HUMAN IS BEHIND THIS CASE!"

AND THAT IS WHY A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT IS IMPORTANT.

EVEN YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT LAST YEAR, WE HAD THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF UNSOLVED CASE'S EVER SINCE THIS OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED!

WE EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM YOU TWO!

A NEW CRIME INVESTIGATION METHODS, COMBINING THE BEST OF MAN'S INSTICTS AND ROBOT'S COMPUTER BRAIN...

IS THIS AN ORDER ...?!

THIS...

YOUR ROOM WILL BE ON THE TOP FLOOR!

AT ANY RATE... YOU MIGHT BE JUST A TEAM OF TWO, BUT CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES...

WE CAN ONLY ENTRUST THIS MATTER TO A VETERAN LIKE YOU..

YES IT IS!

SHIBA!
長官室
..SO PLEASE!
TO YOU, THIS MATTER SHOULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!
SHIBA... PLEASE UNDER-STAND ...
THIS MATTER ...
IT'S LIKELY THAT YOUR NEW POSITION AS THE HEAD OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATION UNIT...
EVEN IF YOU COMPARE IT TO OTHER POSTS IN THIS HEAD-QUARTERS, IT SHOULD...
STOP IT...!

SHIBA ...!

AND BECAUSE I'M STILL STRUGGLING AT THE BOTTOM, YOU FIND ME PITIFUL AND DO THIS?!

IS IT BECAUSE WHILE YOU'RE GETTING CLOSE TO THE CHIEF'S POSITION, AND I...

IS IT BECAUSE WE ENTERED DURING THE SAME PERIOD, BUT I'M STILL A LOWLY DETECTIVE?!

PLEASE STOP WITH THIS AWFUL JOKE!

YOU SHOULD KNOW ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ...!

IF YOU REALLY THINK OF ME OF FRIENDS DUE TO OUR ENTRY YEAR... PLEASE...

IF YOU REALLY PITY ME ...

THEN PLEASE, STOP IT...!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

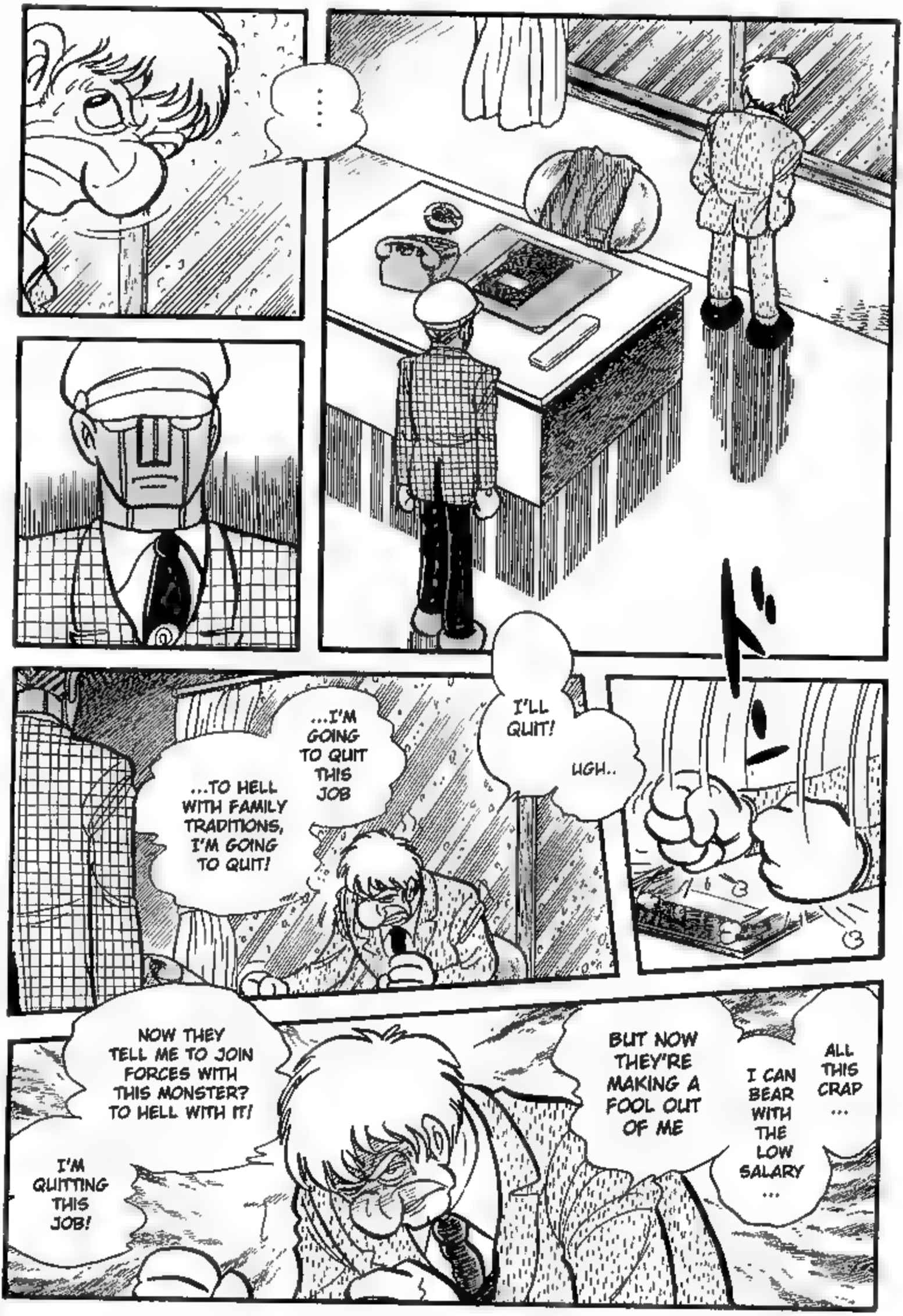
コト

... FINE!

... FINE, I GET IT!

SHIBA!

S.GN. SPECIAL INVESTIGATION uNIT


...
I'LL QUIT!
UGH..
...I'M GOING TO QUIT THIS JOB
...TO HELL WITH FAMILY TRADITIONS, I'M GOING TO QUIT!
NOW THEY TELL ME TO JOIN FORCES WITH THIS MONSTER? TO HELL WITH IT!
I'M QUITTING THIS JOB!
BUT NOW THEY'RE MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME
I CAN BEAR WITH THE LOW SALARY ...
ALL THIS CRAP ...

JUST THINK OF ME AS A MAGNIFYING GLASS USED BY DETECTIVES IN THE PAST

I BELIEVE THAT I WILL BE OF USE TO YOU

...I AM SORRY, BUT...

AS LONG AS YOU MAKE USE OF ME, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH

PLEASE THINK IT OVER.

YOU WOODEN DOLL! MANNE-QUIN!

Y-YOU MONSTER!

Y-Y-Y-Y-YO-

Y-YOU PIECE OF SCRAP!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT SPRINGS, AND YOU DARE VOICE YOUR OPINIONS TO ME, A HUMAN!?

YOU REALLY ARE A MONSTER!

IF YOU COULD TALK, THEN DO IT FASTER, DAMNIT. .

A- AND HOW DARE YOU SURPRISE ME LIKE THAT...

HM?!

--WE HAVE A CASE!

WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS...

NOTHING BUT A GROTESQUE MONSTER!!

UGH~~

...

...WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE A RECEIVER UNIT FUNCTION IN MY BODY, ALIGNED TO THE FREQUENCY OF HQ'S OWN RECEIVER

NOW, SHOULD WE GO TO THE CRIME SCENE?

A COUPLE WERE DRIVING NEAR THE UPSTREAM OF TAMAGAWA, WHEN SUDDENLY A GROUP OF YOUNGSTERS ASSAULTS THEM

A REPORT JUST CAME IN

IT APPEARS THE FEMALE ONE WAS KILLED IN THE PROCESS..!

SHUT UP!!

HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT...?

WHA.. WHAT?

LISTEN WELL, IF YOU STILL WANT TO GROUP WITH ME!!

DON'T YOU EVER DARE!

THE ONE ORDERING AROUND IS ME!!

DON'T YOU DARE ORDER ME AROUND!!

YOU PIECE OF TRASH! YOU SCRAP IRON!!

YOU, YOU

IF IT EVEN EXISTS, IT MIGHT BE A CASE WHERE WE ARE UNNEEDED ANYWAY...

A-AT ANY RATE, I STILL DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAID...

...AND TO FOLLOW UP IF THE CASE REMAIN UNSOLVED BY OTHERS

TELLING US TO AT LEAST GO OUT THERE REGARDLESS OF THE CASE...

-IT SHOULD BE AN ORDER TO GO BY THE HIGHER UPS,

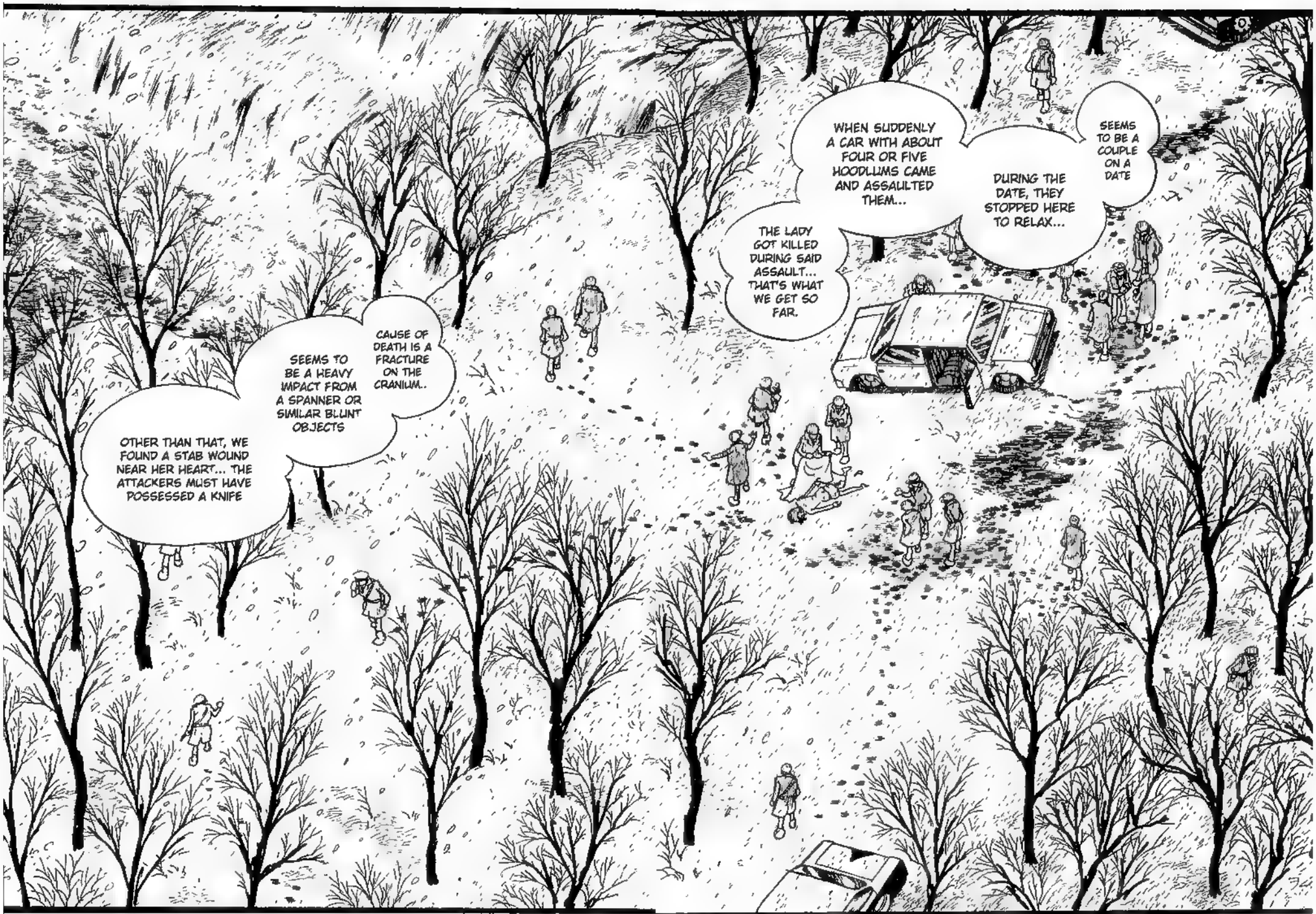
OR CALL IT WARM UP IF YOU WANT... WE WANT YOUR GROUP TO MOVE OUT!

THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE FOR YOU! FOR A TEST...

WE HAVE A MURDER CASE IN TAMAGAWA RIGHT NOW!

SHIBA... THIS IS HASHIMOTO SPEAKING...

A HORRIBLE ONE, THIS CASE
WELL, GO TAKE A LOOK BY YOURSELF
HEY THERE, POPS. GOOD TO SEE YOU HERE.
WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE SCENE.
...
UGH~~
DAMN IT!
WE WON'T MAKE IT BY TRAIN... PLEASE TAKE A SEAT.
I-I HATE CARS!
TRAIN, LET'S GO BY TRAIN!
...THIS WILL BE THE CAR WE USE FROM NOW ON
...SHIBA? DO YOU HEAR ME?


SEEMS TO BE A COUPLE ON A DATE
DURING THE DATE, THEY STOPPED HERE TO RELAX...
WHEN SUDDENLY A CAR WITH ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE HOODLUMS CAME AND ASSAULTED THEM...
THE LADY GOT KILLED DURING SAID ASSAULT... THAT'S WHAT WE GET SO FAR.
CAUSE OF DEATH IS A FRACTURE ON THE CRANIUM..
SEEMS TO BE A HEAVY IMPACT FROM A SPANNER OR SIMILAR BLUNT OBJECTS
OTHER THAN THAT, WE FOUND A STAB WOUND NEAR HER HEART... THE ATTACKERS MUST HAVE POSSESSED A KNIFE

POPS... WHO IS HE?

...

Y-YES... IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S ALSO STABBED IN THE HANDS AND ONE OR TWO OTHER PLACES

IS THAT MAN THE VICTIM'S COMPANION?

-POPS... THAT MAN IS LYING-

HMM ?!

EH?

SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED INSIDE THE CAR..

BUT MOST DEFINITELY NOT IN THIS PLACE!

NO, SHE HAS BEEN DEAD FOR MORE THAN FIVE HOURS!

THIS WOMAN WAS NOT KILLED IN THIS PLACE, THREE HOURS AGO...

WHA.. HOW?

HOW CAN YOU UNDERSTAND JUST BY LOOKING...?!

AS YOU KNOW, WHEN BLOOD FLOWS OUTSIDE YOUR BODY AND CONTACTS OPEN AIR, IT WILL EXPERIENCE CHANGES

I CAN RECOGNIZE AND MEASURE SUCH CHANGES INSTANTLY WITH MY SPECTRO-SCOPE EYES

P-POPS ...

WHO.. WHAT'S WITH THIS MAN...?!

S-SPEC... WHAT?!

SPECTRO-SCOPE EYES I CAN ALSO CATCH IN-FRARED RAYS WITH IT,

AND WHEN NEEDED, IT CAN ALSO ACT AS A MICROSCOPE

NOW, LET'S ASK THAT MAN FOR THE TRUTH...!

B-BUT... ON THE SCENE, AS YOU CAN SEE...
YOU CAN SEE TRACKS FROM A DIFFERENT CAR'S TIRES AND NUMEROUS SHOES FOOTSTEPS.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE
IT'S JUST A DIVERSION CREATED BY THE REAL CULPRIT?

J-JUST NOW, MY GIRL-FRIEND...
T-THAT'S... THAT'S TOO MUCH!
W-WHAT DID YOU ...?

YOU'RE LYING!
IT-IT'S ABSURD!
M-MY GIRLFRIEND JUST GOT KILLED IN FRONT OF ME!

MY BODY IS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH LIE DETECTOR FUNCTIONALITY

JUST NOW, I ANALYZED THE RIPPLES OF YOUR VOICES, AND THE RESULT IS YOU HAVE 99% CHANCE OF LYING!

チラリ

ドキッ

ドキッ

. . .

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

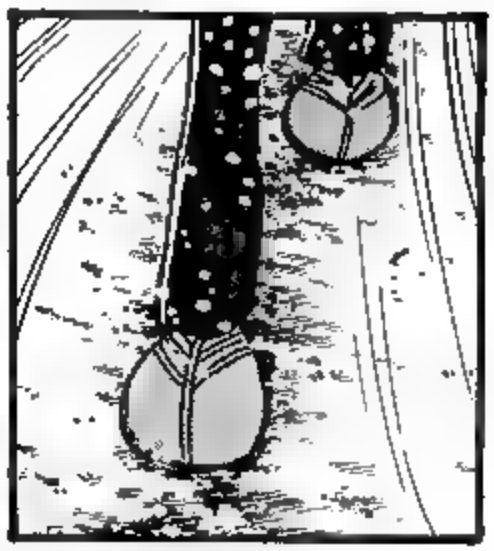
HEY, WAIT

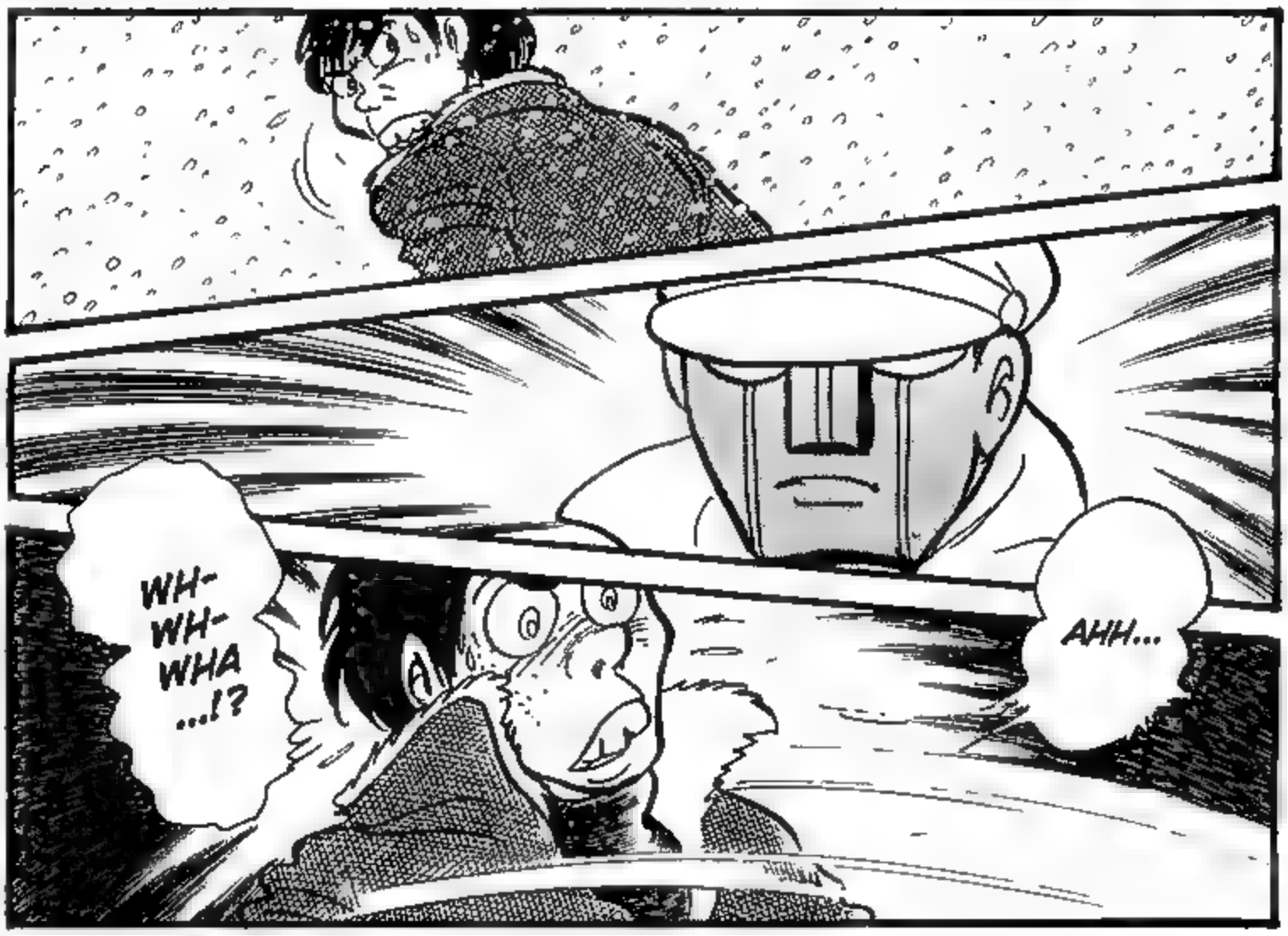
THAT MAN QUICKLY GLANCED TO THAT SUSPICIOUS PERSON... I TAKE THAT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?

.. I SPOTTED A SUSPICIOUS PERSON AMONG THE ONLOOKERS ABOVE THAT BRIDGE

...

WAIT!
...NO USE IN RUNNING
ONE OF THE FOOTSTEPS IN THE CRIME SCENE MATCHES YOUR SHOES!




WH-WH-WHA ...!?
AHH...

UGH!?
S-SHIT ...!
WHA
HH HH
AAH-HHHH

BUT-BUT I GOT WORRIED, SO I CAME BY MYSELF TO, TO SEE THE SITUATION...!

S..SHE GOT IN MY WAY...!

HE SAID HE'LL GIVE SOME DRUGS, SO WE PRETENDED TO ASSAULT HIS CAR

HE-HE'S JUST ASKING US TO HELP!

WE-WE'RE NOT THE KILLER!

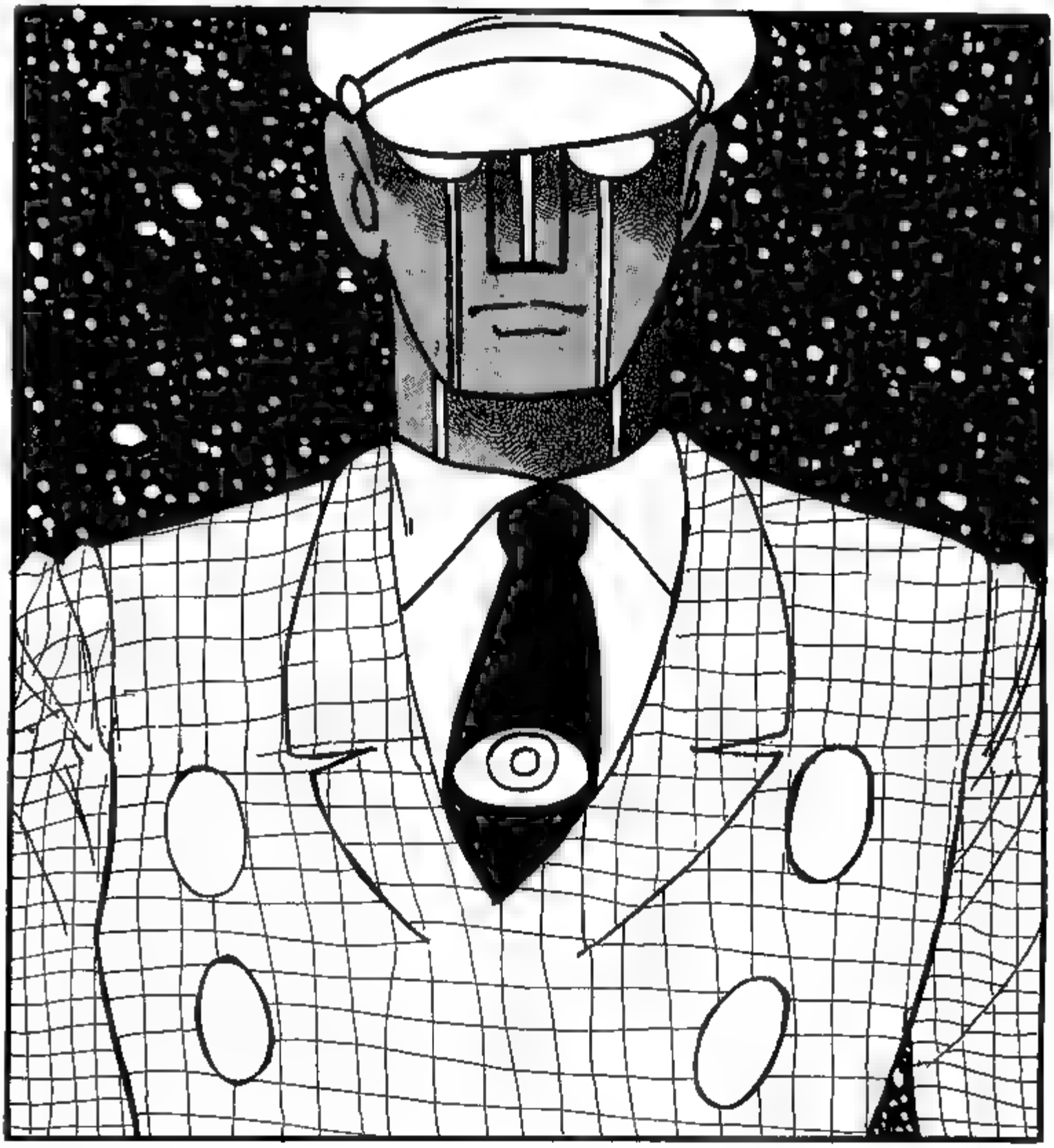
I GOT A DIFFERENT GIRLFRIEND.... BUT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BREAK UP NO MATTER WHAT...

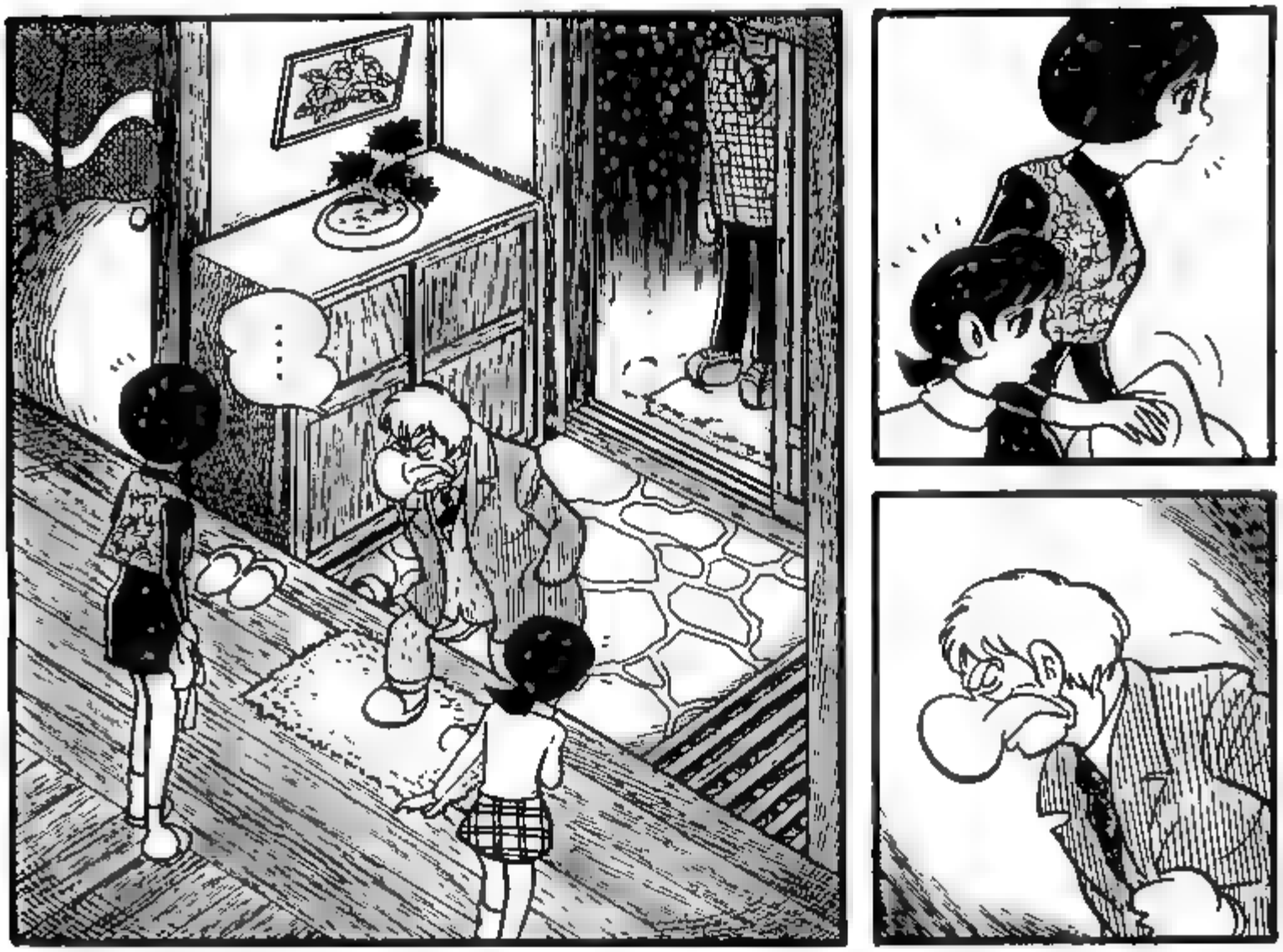
...SO I KILLED HER... I KILLED HER!

GET HIM AWAY FROM ME...!
STOP... DON'T LET THAT MONSTER NEAR ME...

AH?

FATHER
WEL-
COME
HOME




WHAT ABOUT THE GUEST ...?
.. FATHER ?
OTHERWISE, SEE YOU TOMORROW MORNING
IF THERE'S A URGENT CASE, I WILL IMMEDIATELY REPORT IT TO YOU...
...THEN, I WILL BE WAITING INSIDE THE CAR...

DON'T!

UMM... YOU'RE WELCOME TO COME INS--

HE MUST NOT ENTER THIS HOUSE!

NO MATTER WHAT!

HE WILL STAIN THIS HOUSE IF HE DOES!

F- FATHER !?

...AH!

LISTEN, NAMI... NO NEED TO CARE ABOUT HIM!

LEAVE HIM!

I NEED TO DRINK SAKE ON NIGHTS LIKE THESE!
DAMN IT...!
...
...
BRING ME MORE SAKE THAN THE USUAL
BRING ME SAKE, NOW!
DON'T MIND ABOUT IT,
HEY, SIS...
'THAT MAN' REALLY IS STAYING IN THE CAR NEAR THE GATE...!
カタカタ
...
DOES HE REALLY PLAN TO SLEEP IN THAT CAR TONIGHT?
I WONDER... JUST WHO IS 'HE'?

THAT BASTARD... HE'S ACTING NICE AND ALL... BUT IN THE END HE'S MAKING A FOOL OF ME JUST BECAUSE HE'S SMARTER!

ACTING LIKE MY FRIEND... BUT HE BE-TRAYED ME!

UHHH... DAMN THAT HASHIMOTO!

NAMI!

BRING ME MORE SAKE!

...YES HE IS

HE'LL BE FINE TOMORROW AFTER GETTING DRUNK ALL NIGHT!

HEH, BUT I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED

BECAUSE AS USUAL,

..DAD SURE IS REALLY GRUMPY TONIGHT

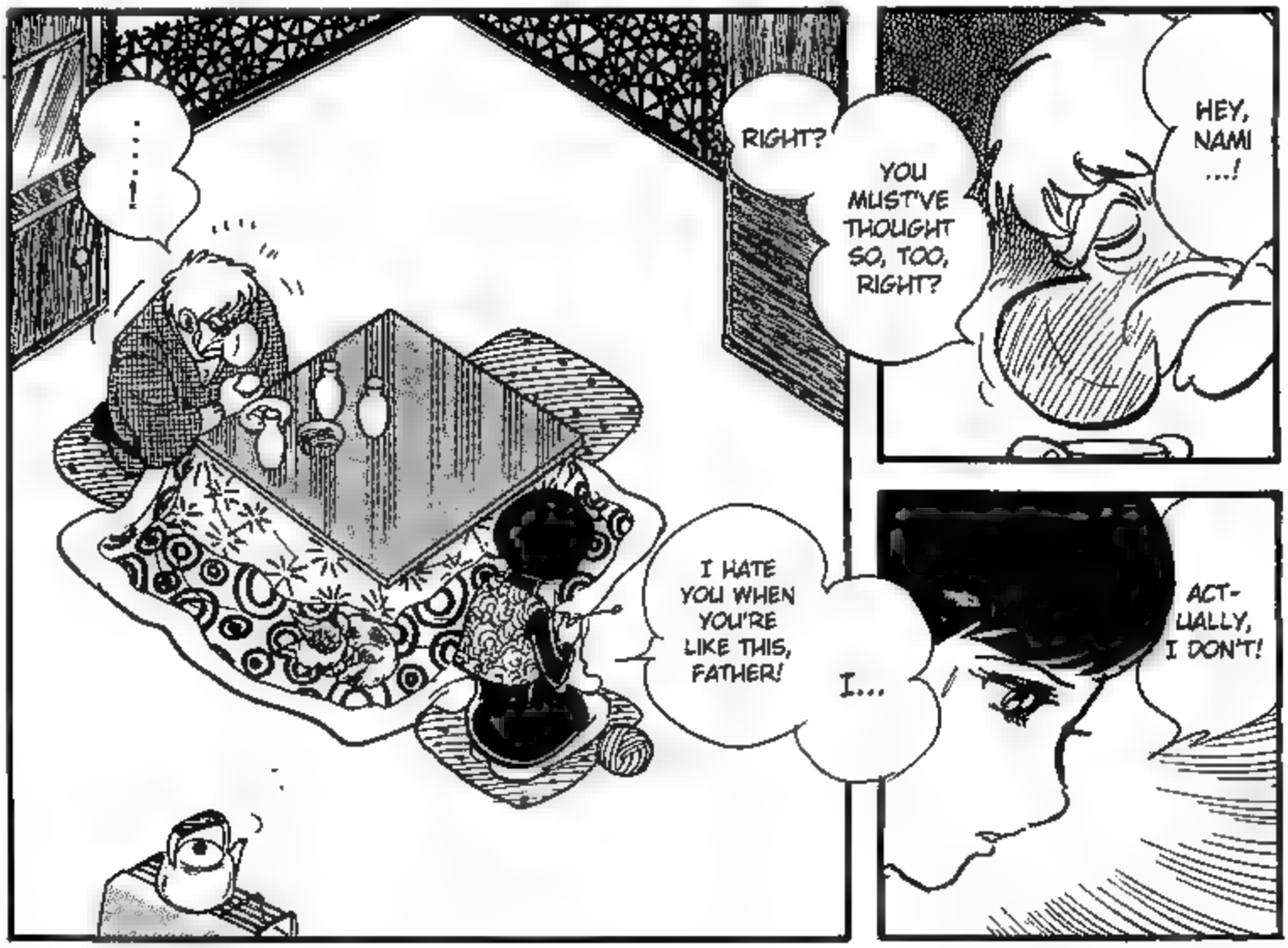
"ALL THE NEW COPS ARE NOTHING BUT SALARYMAN CHUMPS!"

DON'T WORRY, SOON HE'LL DO THE USUAL THING...

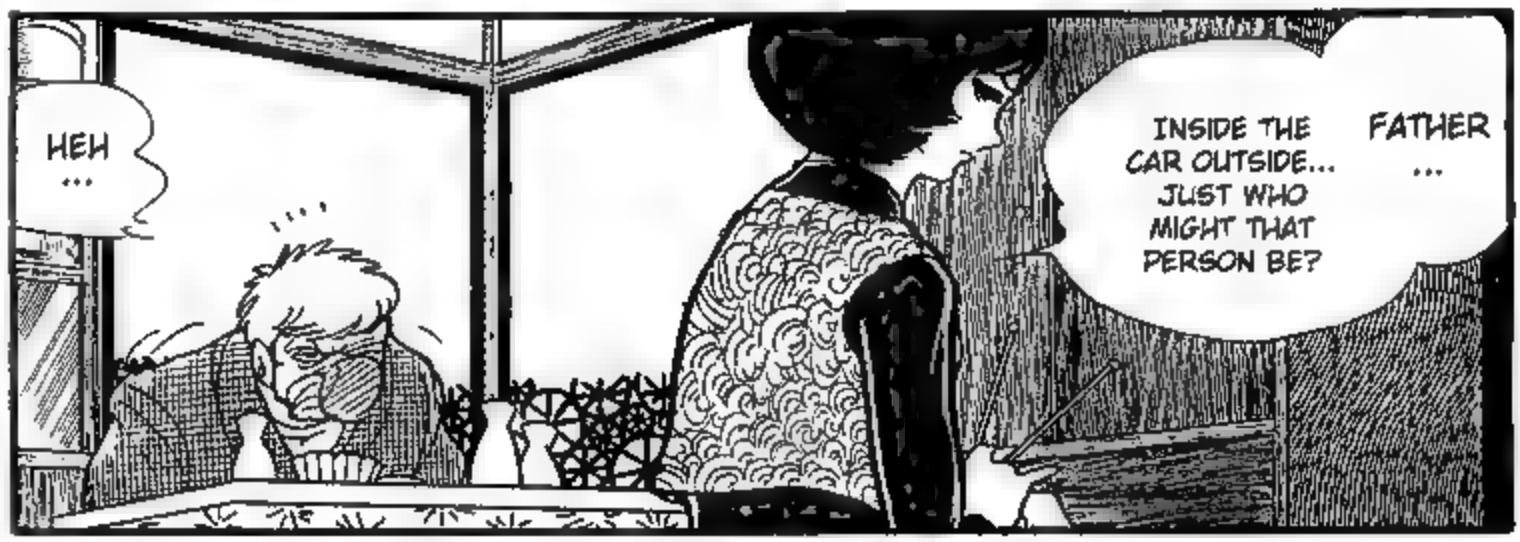
I DON'T KNOW, TONIGHT HE'S...

WOULD BE NICE IF HE DOES...

"THEY DON'T THINK ANYTHING BEYOND THE 'FUN' AND 'COOL' THINGS!"
"AND ALL THEY DO IS RELYING ON COMPUTER DATA...!"
"THEY JUST WANT TO RIDE FANCY CARS,"
... YUMI, IT'S GETTING LATE, YOU BETTER SLEEP!
... SOMETHING LIKE THAT, EHEHE
AND THAT'S IT!
"SO PATHETIC... THE WORLD REALLY IS ENDING!"
HE MUST'VE HATED ME!
YES, THAT MUST BE IT ...
THAT'S WHY HE DID THIS HORRIBLE THING TO ME!
HE WENT THAT FAR... HE MUST'VE BEEN JEALOUS OF ME!
HE'S JUST A TOP UNIVERSITY GRADUATE... BUT I DID COUNTLESS TIMES MORE WORK THAN HIM!
THAT MUST BE WHY HE HATES ME...!


HEY, NAMI ...!
RIGHT?
YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT SO, TOO, RIGHT?
ACT-UALLY, I DON'T!
I...
I HATE YOU WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS, FATHER!
.....!

ガタガタ
ひえ〜!!


HEH ...
INSIDE THE CAR OUTSIDE... JUST WHO MIGHT THAT PERSON BE?
FATHER ...

HE'S NOTHING BUT A MONSTER... MADE FROM SCRAP IRON, WIRES, AND SPRINGS!

YOU FOOL! YOU'RE THINKING OF THAT MONSTER WAY TOO HIGH!

"WHO MIGHT THAT PERSON BE"?!

... HEH!

EH?!

HE'S A ROBOT!!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST...

THAT... THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...!?

HE..HE'S THE MAGNIFICENT PARTNER OF MINE... THE GREAT ROBOT DETECTIVE!

IN A FLASH... HE SOLVED A CASE SPLENDIDLY, JUST BY HIMSELF!

BUT... HE'S THE REAL DEAL!

THAT MAN-MADE PUPPET, JUST LIKE IN COMICS... WHAT CAN IT DO?

HE TOLD ME TO PROVIDE LODGING FOR HIM, SO I CAN GET USED TO THAT ROBOT!!

BUT. . THAT BASTARD HASHIMOTO...

TH-THAT'S WHY .. I CAN AT LEAST ACCEPT TEAMING UP WITH THAT THING...

PROVIDE LODGING FOR ROBOT ...!

I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE DEALING WITH HIM!

YOU TWO DON'T NEED TO DEAL WITH THAT SCARY ABOMINATION!

U-UGH... JUST HOW FAR MUST HE MAKE FOOL OUT OF ME?!

FATHER ...!

I WANTED TO LIVE FULLY UNTIL I SEE YOU TWO GET MARRIED...

AT LEAST...

NAMI, TO ME ...

B-BUT... I GUESS NOW IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE....

I'VE BEEN A COP FOR SO LONG... A JOB WHERE YOU ALWAYS SEE MANKIND'S WORSTS, BUT STILL...

IF ONLY YOUR MOTHER IS STILL ALIVE...

FORGIVE ME...

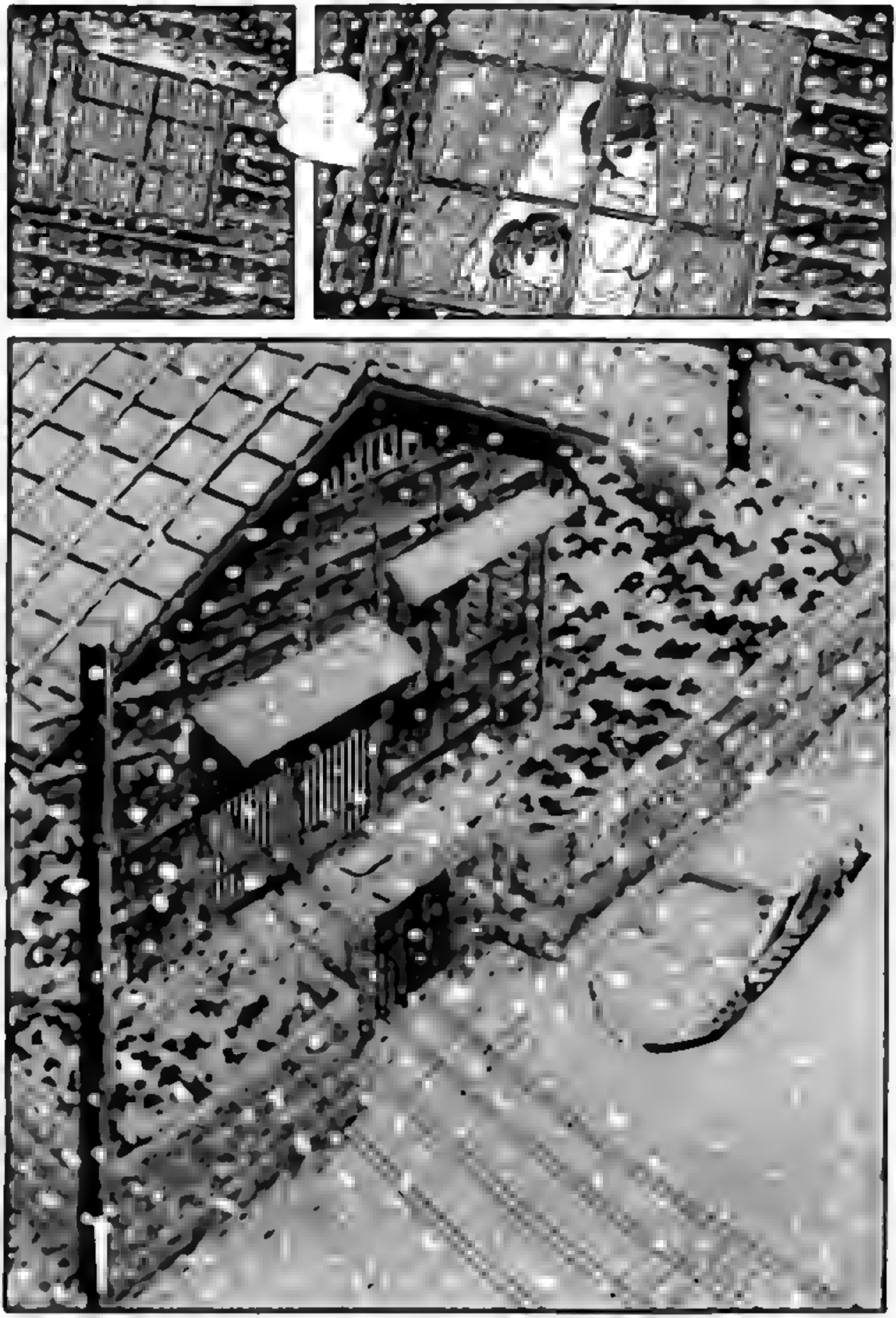
.....

IS THAT MAN REALLY A ROBOT...?!

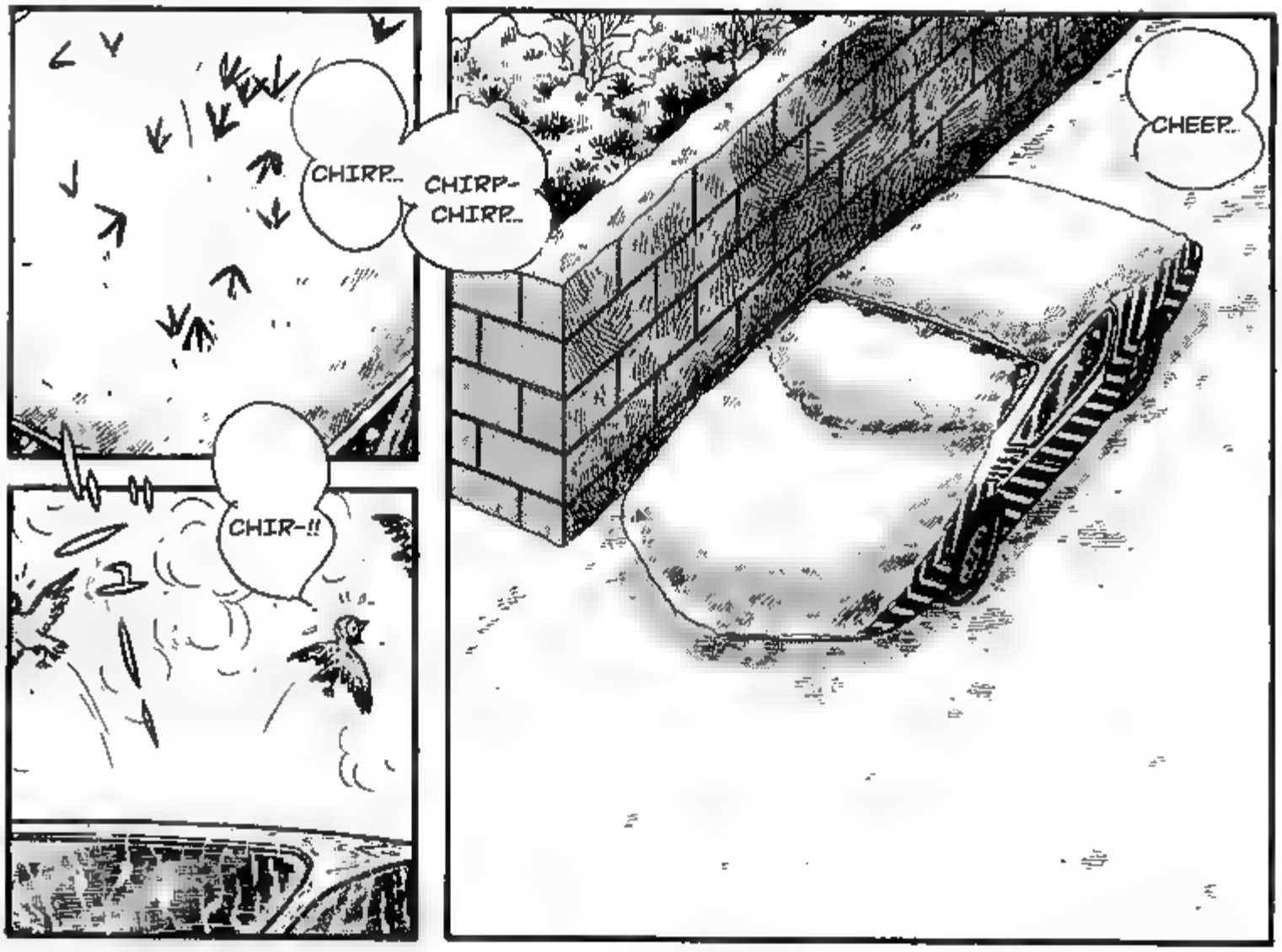
HEY, HEY SIS!

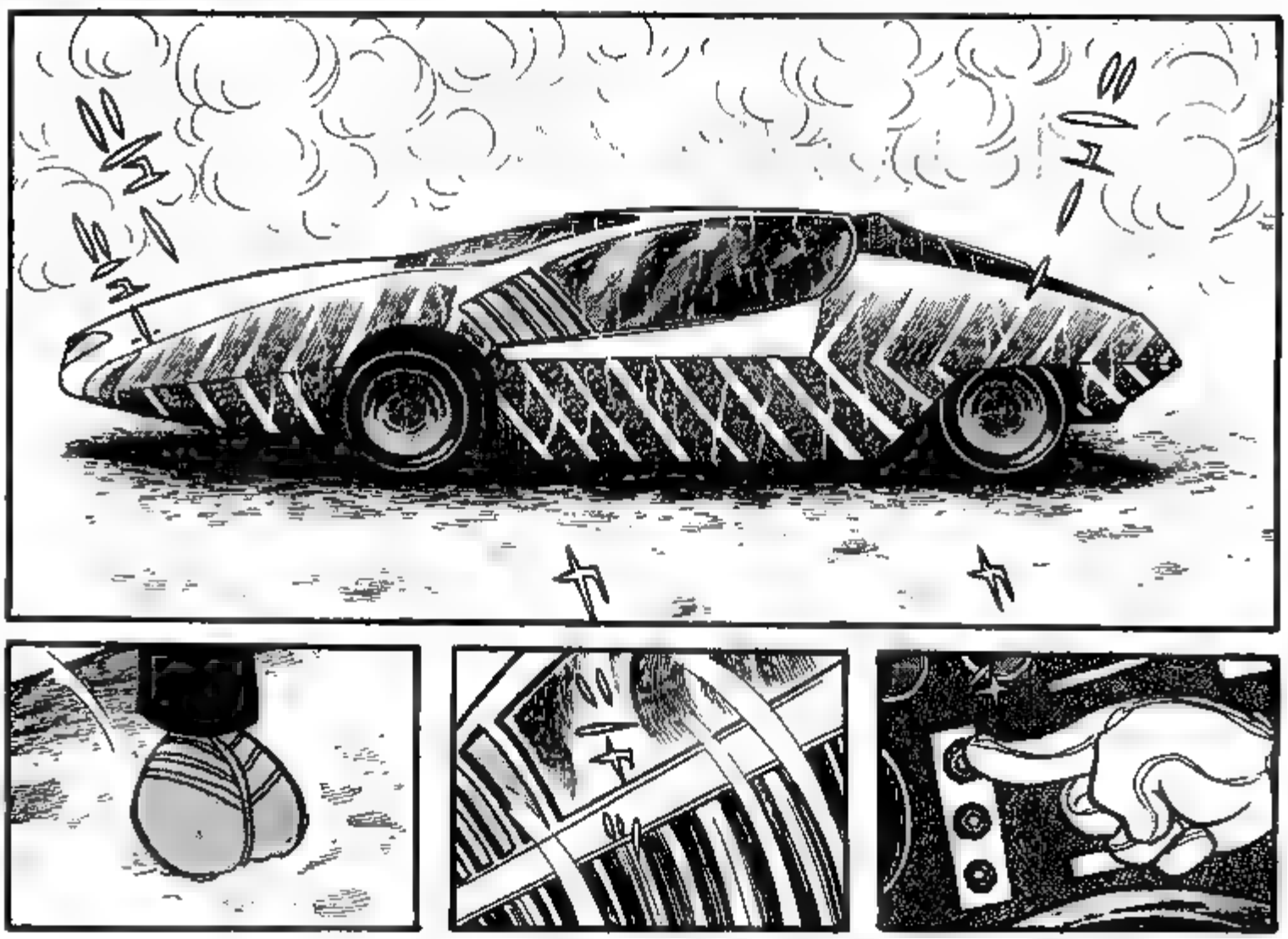
...

SIS...

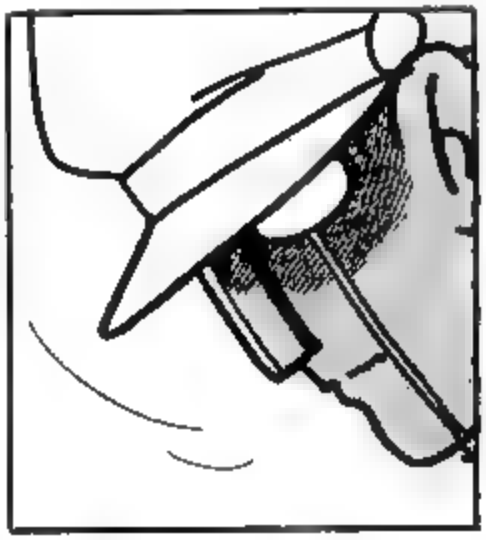


CHAPTER 2 PRESENTED BY HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY SONICKRAZY
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING AND REDRAWING BY KAZUHIKO



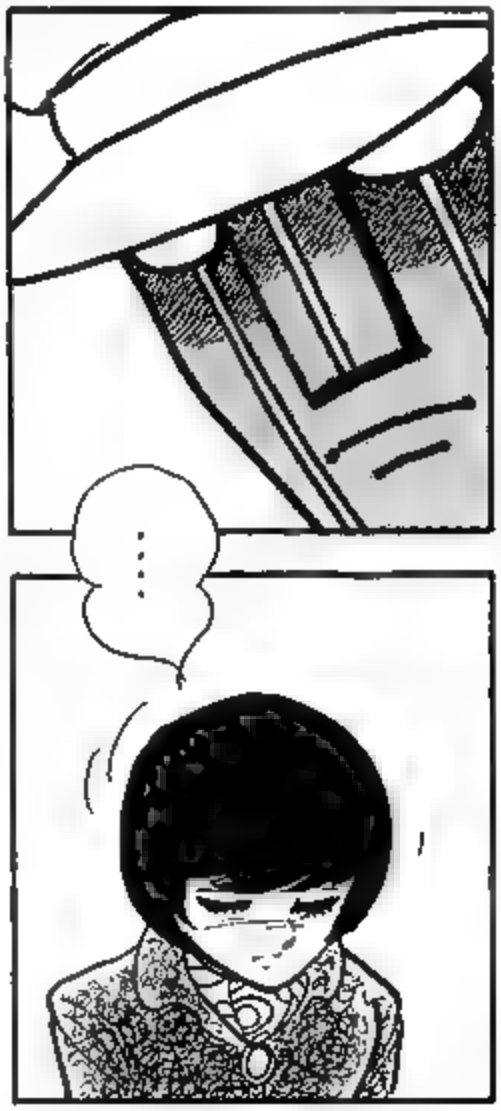


..GOOD MORNING

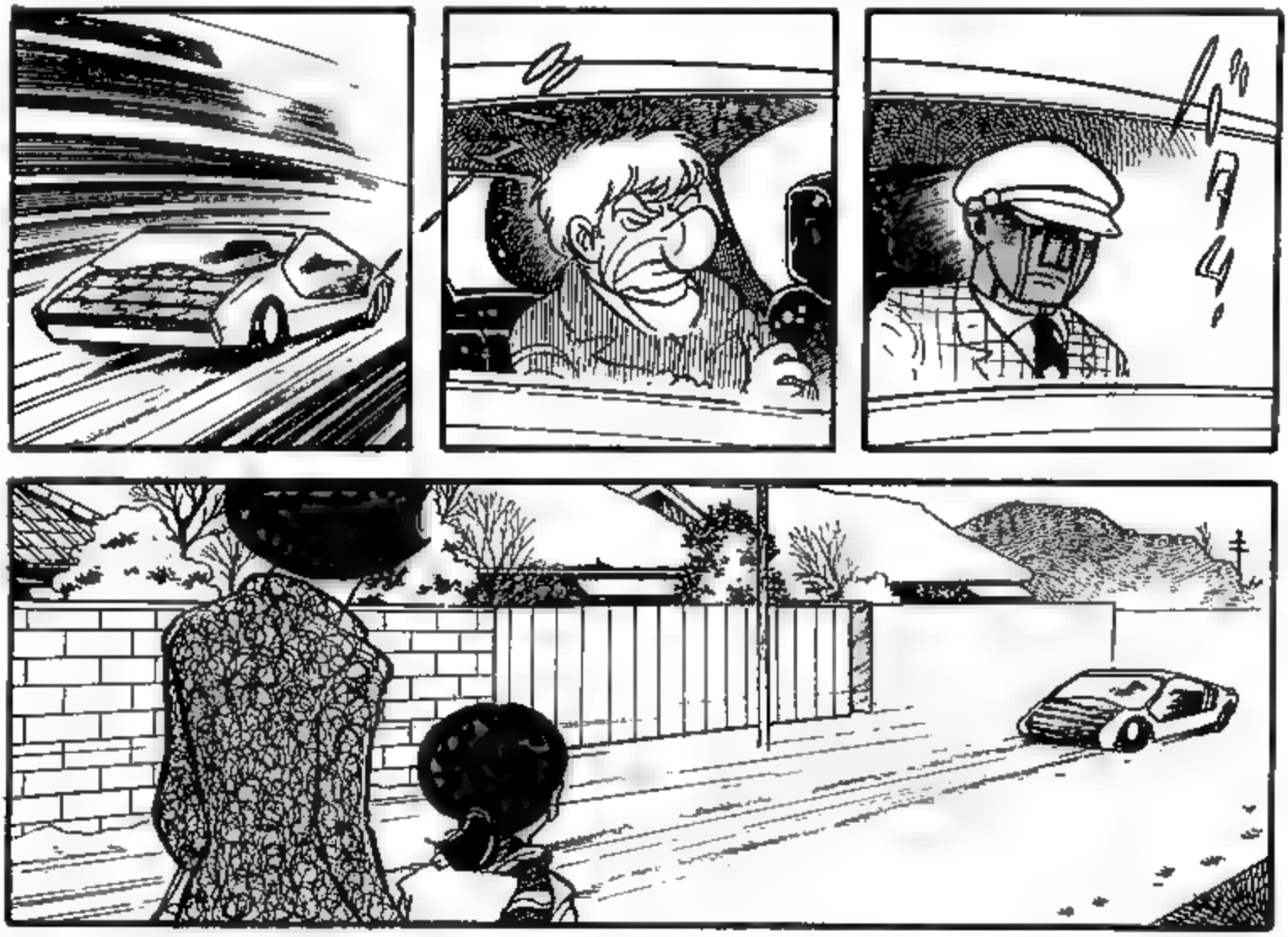


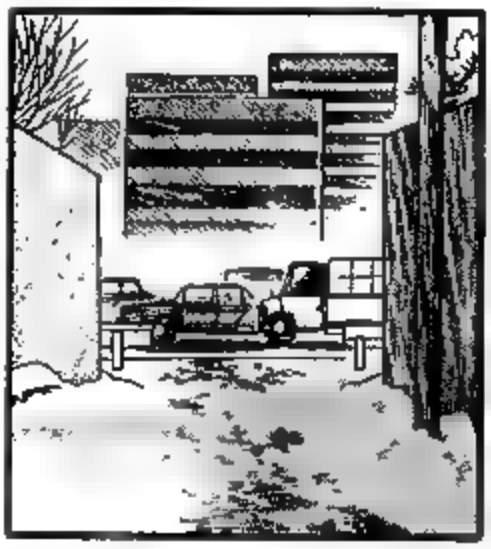
MM... MORN- ING...!

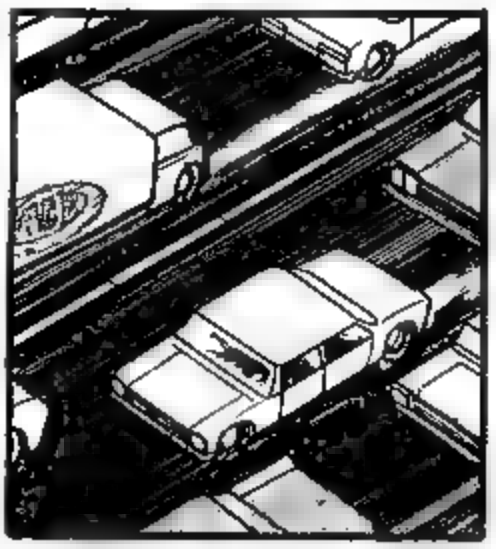
NOW, THEN...
WOULD THE TWO OF YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG WITH US, TODAY?
...I HAVE BEEN NAMED "K".
IT IS A PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR AC- QUAIN- TANCE.
WHOA!! REALLY?!
YUMI!!



O... OKAY...
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? YOU ARE NOT TO BE INVOLVED WITH THIS!

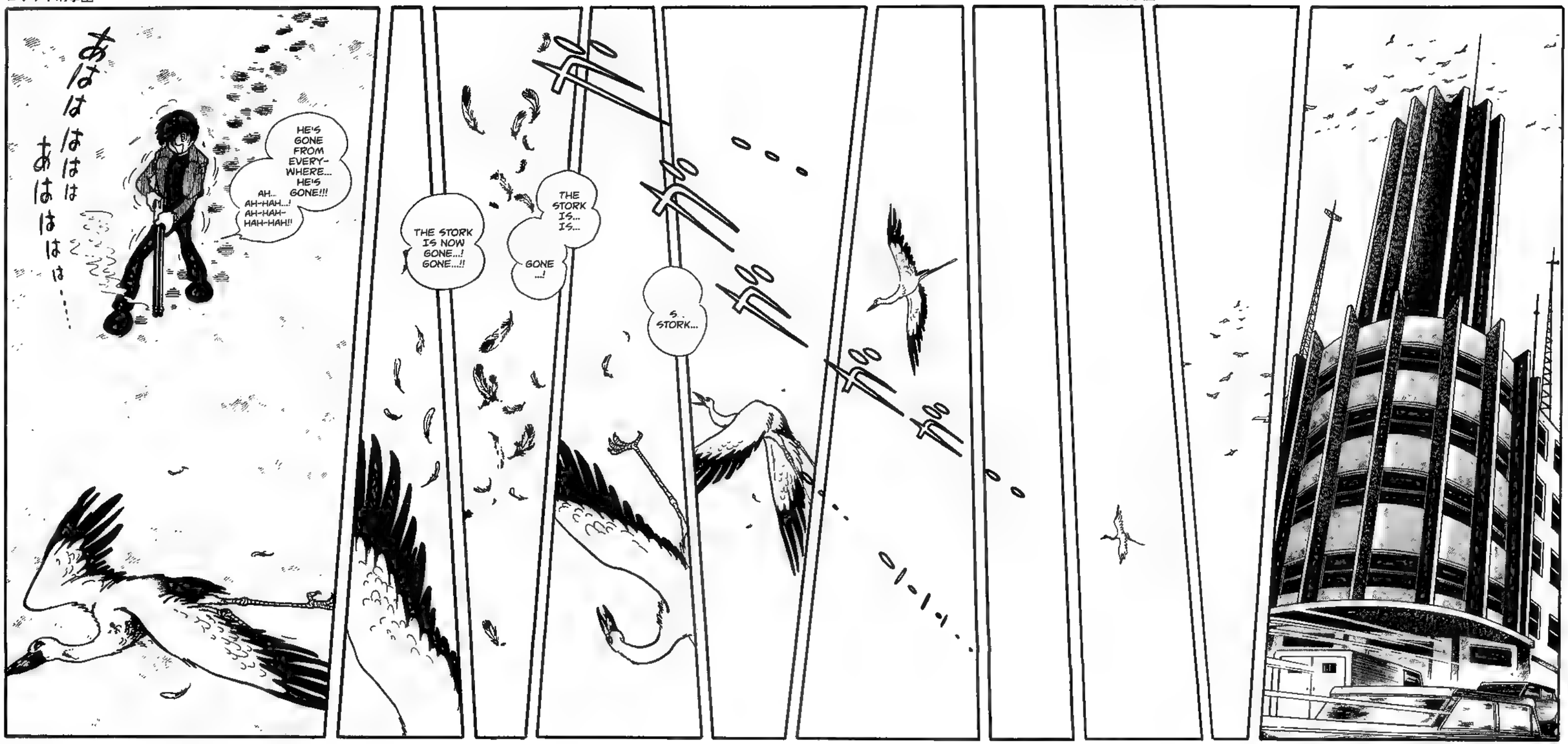

ヴ～ン!



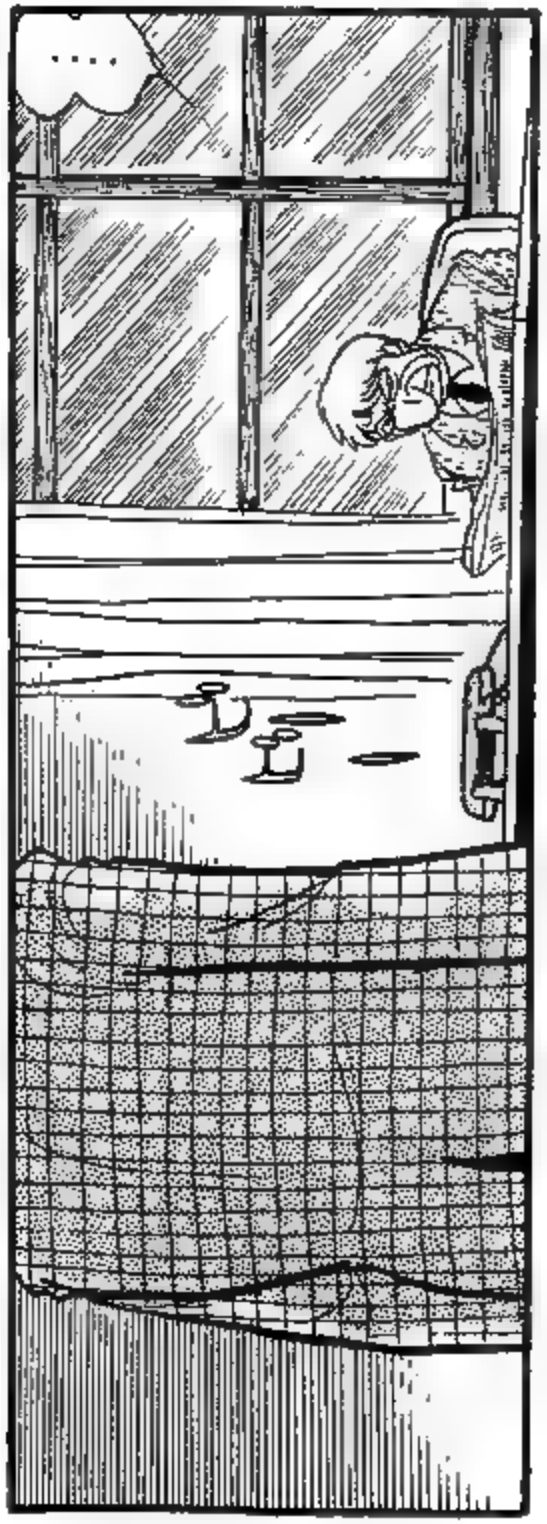


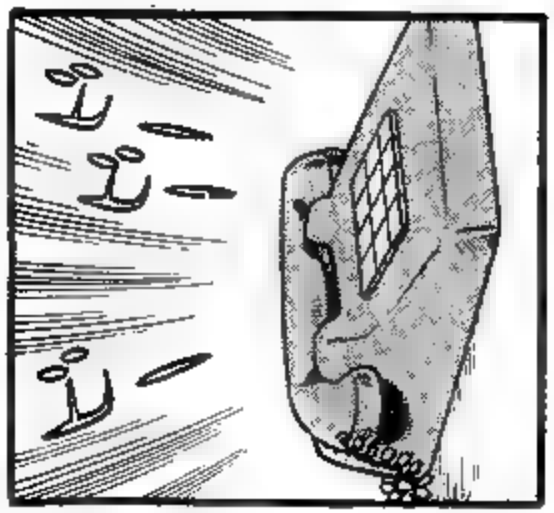
SO... SO, SIS... DO YOU THINK THAT GUY WAS A REAL ROBOT?!
HIS FACE KINDA SEEMED THAT WAY, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT HIM...
IT JUST SEEMED UN-BELIEVABLE! WHAT DO YOU THINK, HUH, SIS?
...

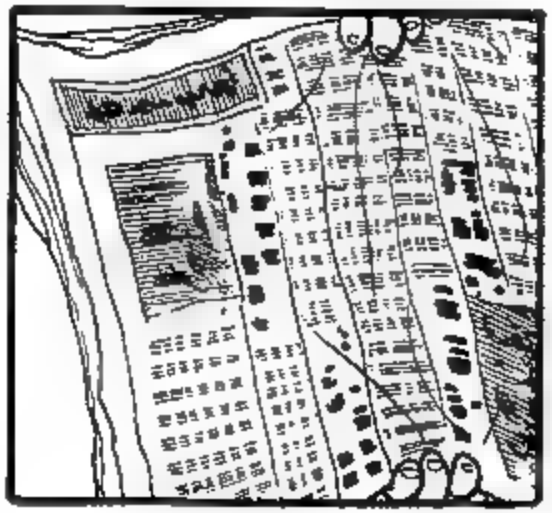
ロボット刑事1

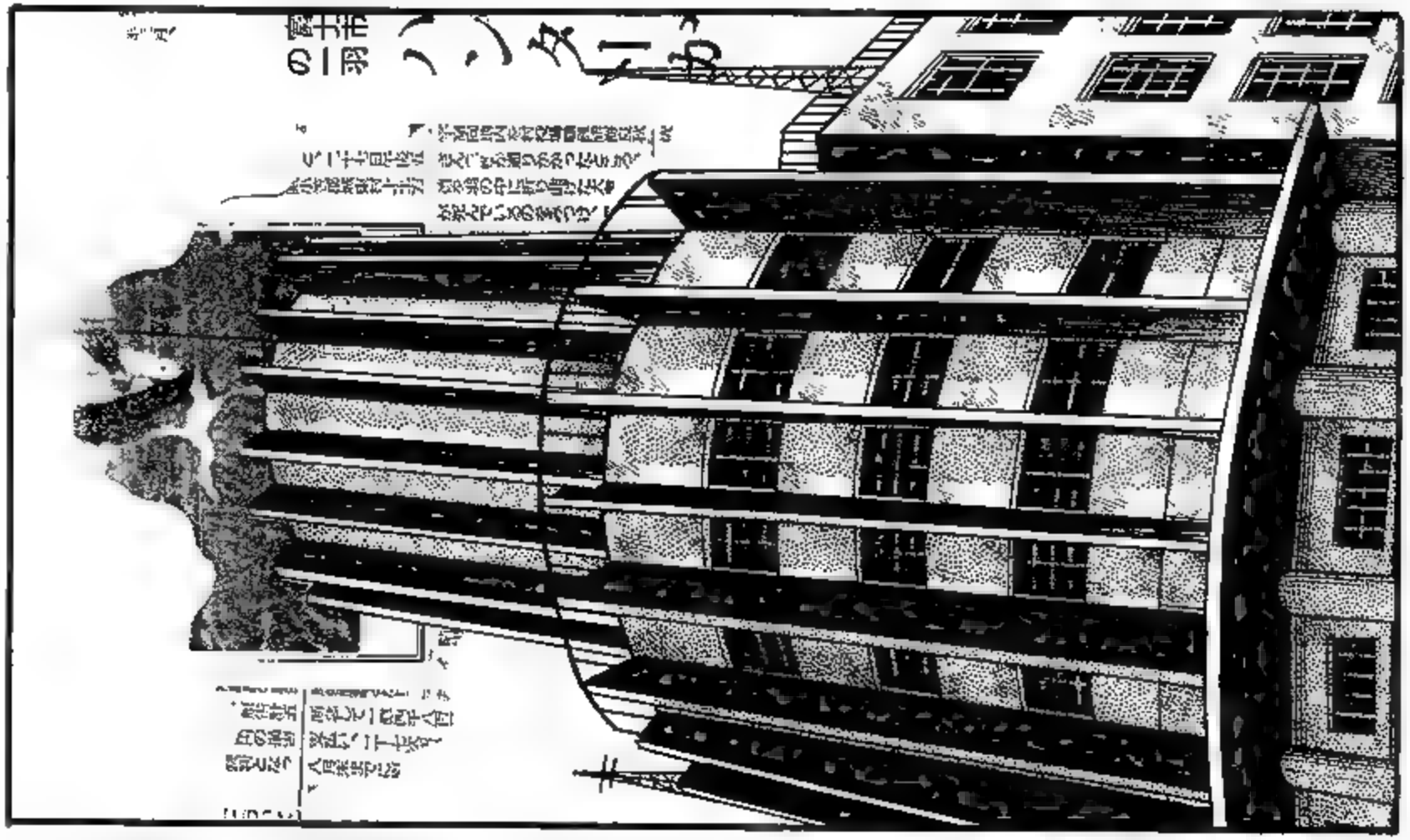

あはははは
あはははは
HE'S GONE FROM EVERY-WHERE... HE'S GONE!!!
AH... AH-HAH...! AH-HAH-HAH-HAH!!
THE STORK IS NOW GONE...! GONE...!!
THE STORK IS... IS...
GONE ...!
S... STORK...

THE STORK KILLER
病
殺!!
IT IS TRULY AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY.
THE STORK IS DEAD!!
HE'S DEAD!!!
HAHAHAHAHA!!
AFTER HUFFING HOUSEHOLD PAINT THINNER, MAN SHOOTS HIS OWN FATHER WITH RIFLE!
SEVERAL STORKS WERE SHOT BY THE SAME GUN...
FRIGHTENING LEVELS OF PAINT THINNER HUFFING CAUSED A YOUNG MAN TO GO INSANE AND SHOOT HIS FATHER TO DEATH WHILE LYING IN BED, ILL!
MAN SHOOTS HIS OWN FATHER WITH RIFLE, KILLING HIM WHILE HE LAY ILL IN BED
サンワリ君


……






ハンター
ハンター

..YEAH, THIS IS SHIBA.

OH, IT'S YOU.

I KNEW THAT ALREADY, GOD DAMMIT!

THE PHONE IS RINGING.

HUMPH!

LIKE IT MATTERS ANY MORE TO YOU...

WHAT-?!

HMM... MM-HMM...

IS THAT RIGHT... I UNDERSTAND... I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK, STRAIGHT AWAY!!

GRGH...

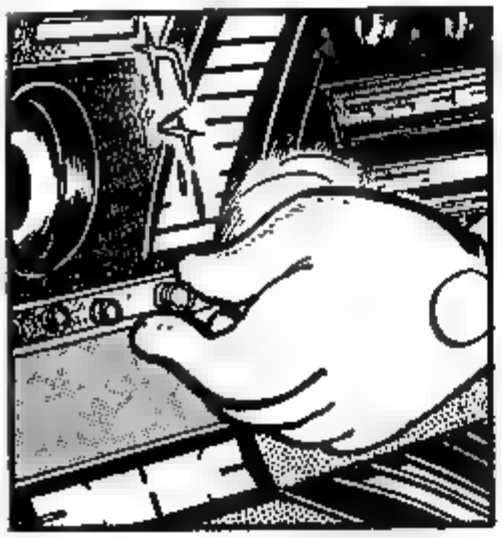
IF YOU UNDERSTAND ALREADY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK ME!

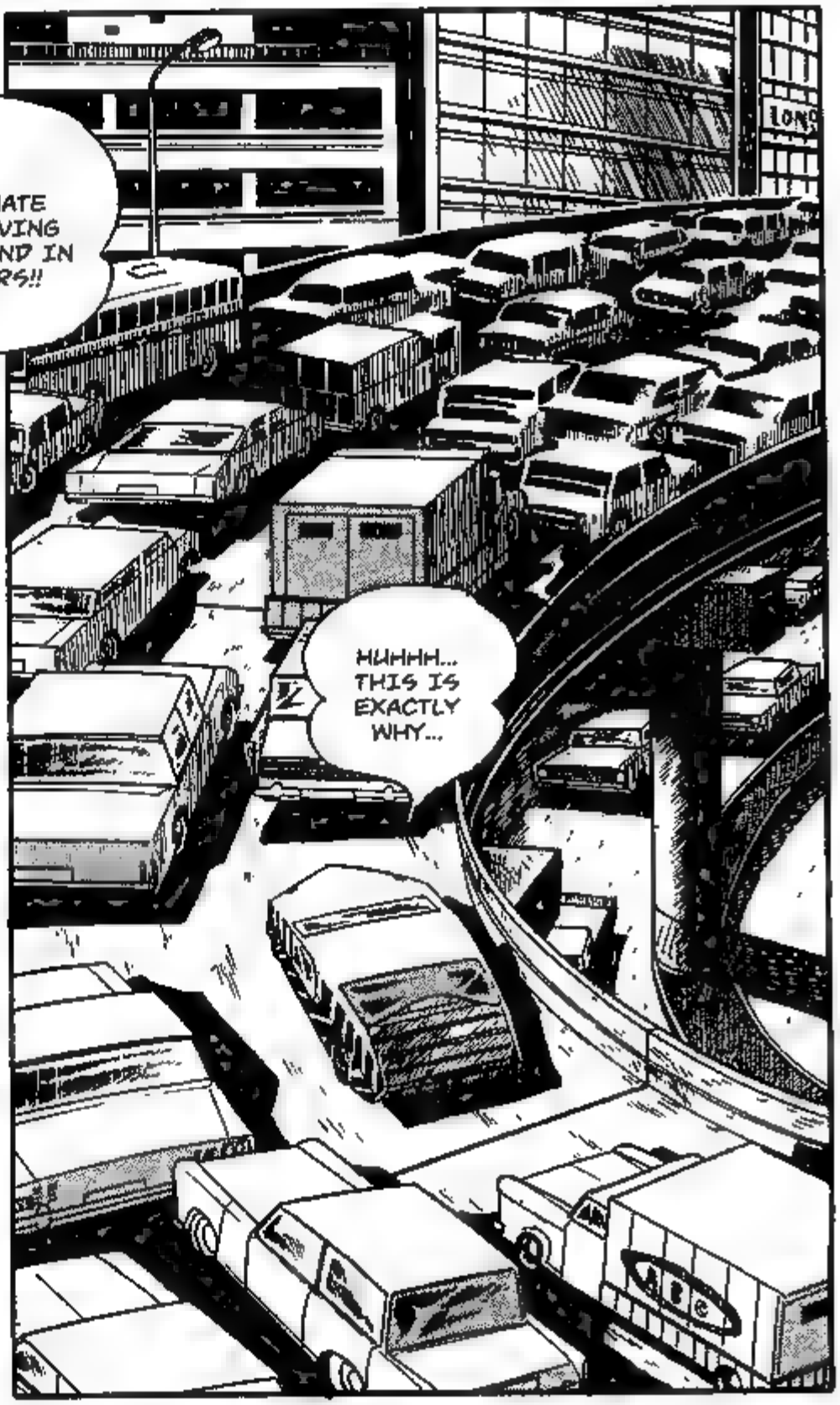
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, CORRECT?

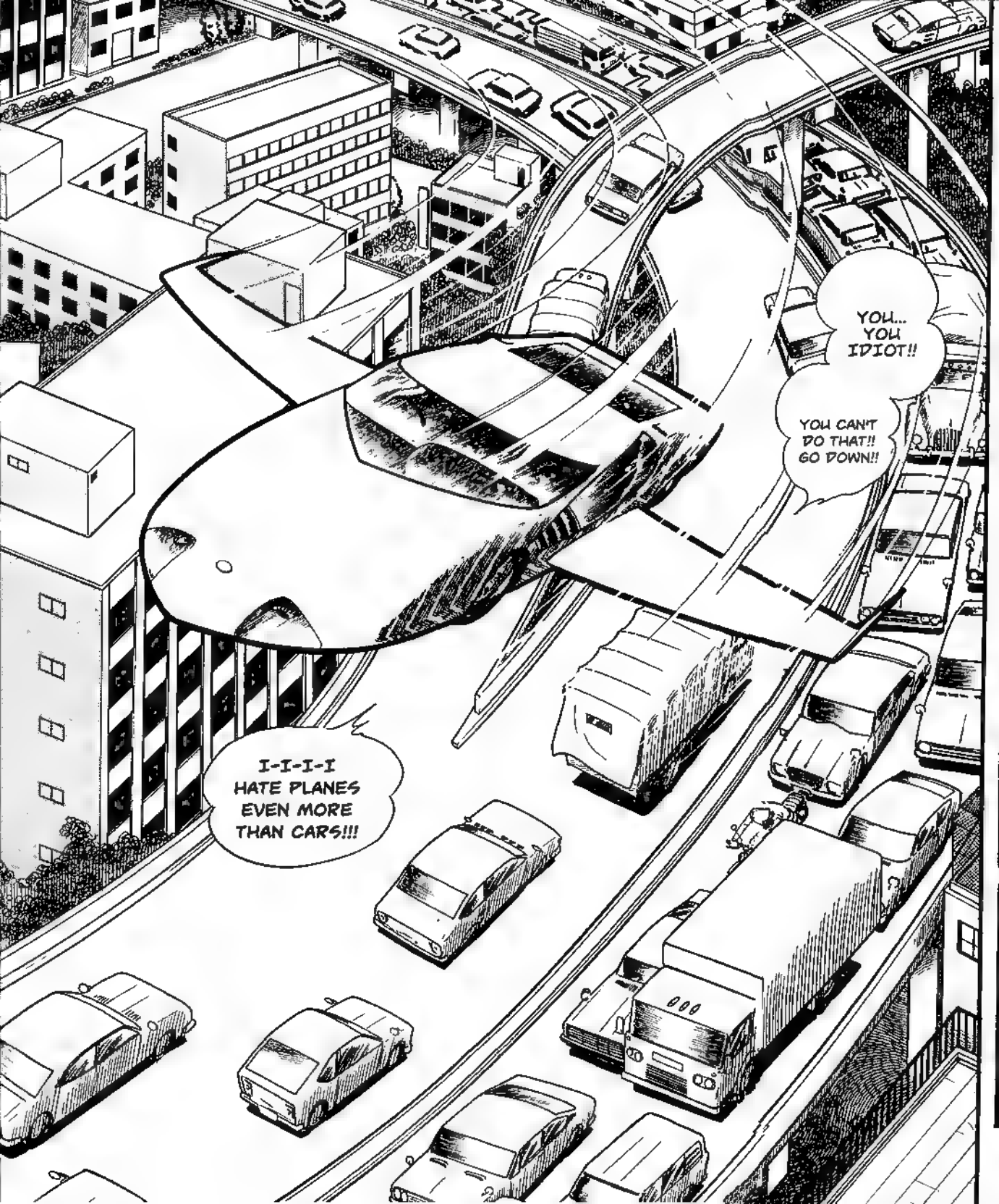
THE MAN WHO WAS ARRESTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER OF HIS LOVER AT TAMAGAWA WAS FOUND DEAD IN POLICE DETENTION...

REMEMBERED THAT HIDEOUS BLUE-AND-BLACK FACE YOU WEAR AROUND..
HMPH... I BET THAT BASTARD...
JUST BE QUIET AND FOLLOW ALONG!
NO, SIR HE WAS POI-SONED WITH POTASSIUM CYANIDE.
AND IT GAVE HIM A HEART ATTACK IN THE DETENTION CELL, JUST THINK-ING ABOUT IT!
KEH...
YOU'VE GOT NO SENSE OF SATIRE, EITHER!
THERE IS SOME DOUBT WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS KILLED.. THAT'S WHAT HAJIMOTO-SAN SAID, CORRECT?
I UNDER-STAND.
WE'RE GOING TO TAMAGAWA STATION!
SHUT UP!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY EVERYTHING YOU THINK OF!!

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA BE ON TIME FOR THE INVES-TIGATION, AT THIS RATE!
I HATE DRIVING AROUND IN CARS!!




HUHHH... THIS IS EXACTLY WHY...


I-I-I-I HATE PLANES EVEN MORE THAN CARS!!!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!! GO DOWN!!
YOU... YOU IDIOT!!

HUH?!
WHA... WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
TAXI
WHAT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ..!!

AHHH-HHHH...
I... I CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER...!!
YOU... YOU HUNK OF JUNK!! YOU PILE OF SPRINGS AND METAL!!
I... I...!
...NOBODY EVER TOLD ME I'D HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS!!!
EEEEEEEEE!!

TAMAGAWA POLICE STATION

AS I THOUGHT, HE WAS INDEED POISONED WITH POTASSIUM CYANIDE...

IT WAS SUICIDE.

BUT THEN, JUST WHERE IN THE WORLD DID HE GET HIS HANDS ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?

.....

WE FOUND SOME IN HIS ROOM, AS WELL.

THAT'S ALSO ANOTHER COMMON WAY FOR PEOPLE TO POISON THEMSELVES.

...WELL, POTASSIUM CYANIDE WAS WHAT DID HIM IN, BUT WE ALSO FOUND SOME PAINT THINNER IN HIM.

PAINT THINNER ...?!

HAVE BEEN HIDING PAINT THINNER SOMEWHERE, AS WELL...

SPEAKING OF, A LOT OF THE YOUNG MEN THAT HAVE BEEN POPPING UP IN THE NEWS RECENTLY...

...

HMM?

WAS OF AN UNUSUAL KIND THAT YOU DON'T NORMALLY FIND AROUND THE HOUSE.

AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THIS THINNER WE FOUND IN HIM...

TRUTHFULLY, WE'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING WHAT CHANNELS HE WENT THROUGH TO GET HIS HANDS ON IT FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, BUT...

AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE MIXED INTO THE THINNER... SOMETHING CLOSER TO LSD.

THE RESULTS SHOW THAT IT WAS SEVERAL TIMES MORE PURE THAN THE PAINT THINNER GENERALLY SOLD IN STORES...

U... UMM...

YEAH?

THERE WAS... A LITTLE KITTY HANGING AROUND ...

WE COULDN'T FIND ANY SIGNS OF HOLES HE COULD HAVE SNUCK THEM IN THROUGH!

WE CHECKED ALL HIS CLOTHES FOR ANSWERS, AND YET...

STILL, POTASSIUM CYANIDE...

THAT'S A MYSTERY...

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'D BE A CAT WHO'D SNEAK THAT POISON INTO HIS FOOD OR ANYTHING...

I THOUGHT IT WAS RATHER UNUSUAL, BUT...

I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM, BUT... THERE WAS A CAT WHO WOULD GO NEAR THAT ROOM AT TIMES...

WELL, TO TELL THE TRUTH...

WHAT?!

I JUST PRETENDED I DIDN'T SEE IT AND LET IT ROAM AROUND...

MM-HEH-HEH-HEH...

IT COULDN'T BE... THERE'S NO WAY A CAT WAS SNEAKING POTASSIUM CYANIDE TO HIM...!

MM...

NO... WE STILL DO NOT KNOW.

...WE'RE GOING!!

ARE WE RETURNING TO THE TOKYO POLICE DEPART-MENT?

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO INVESTIGATE THIS CAT FURTHER?

WRONG! TO SHI-ZUOKA!!

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T EXPECT THAT ROBO-BRAIN OF YOURS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A "JOKE", BUT...

Y... YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?!

I DON'T HAVE THE TIME NOR THE PATIENCE TO BE FOLLOWING THAT IDIOTIC JOKE OF A LEAD!!

IT IS NOT A JOKE.

WE'RE GOING TO GO ASK ABOUT THAT KID WHO KILLED HIS DAD AND ALL THOSE STORKS... WITH SOMETHING TO DO WITH PAINT THINNER, AS WELL!

THAT'S WHERE I WANT TO GO NEXT!!

QUIT YOUR COMPLAINING! WE'RE GOING TO SHIZUOKA, AND THAT'S THAT!!

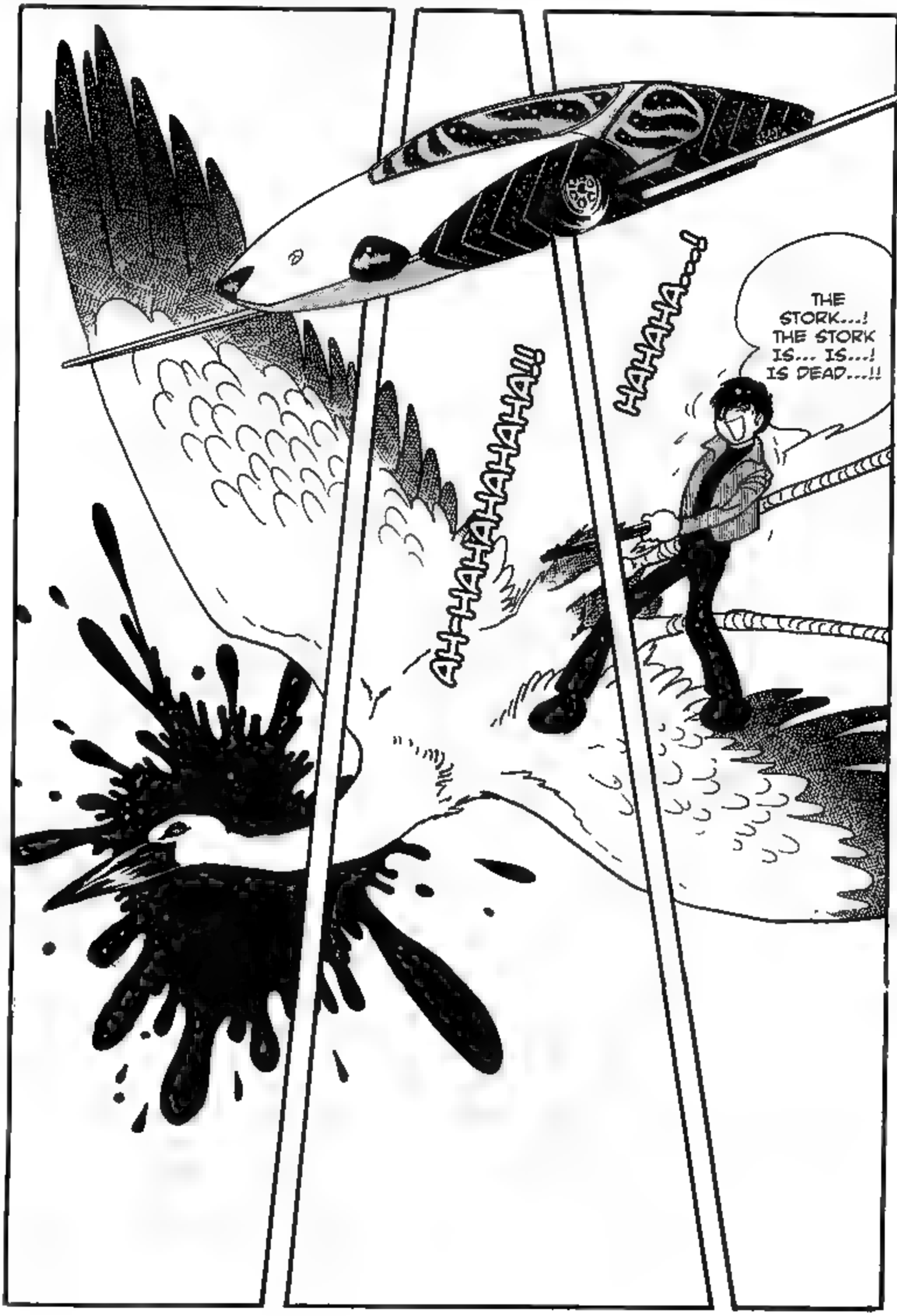
SHUT IT!!

ANY COMP-LAINTS?!

I THINK THAT IS A PERFECTLY REASONABLE DIRECTION TO AIM FOR.

NO.

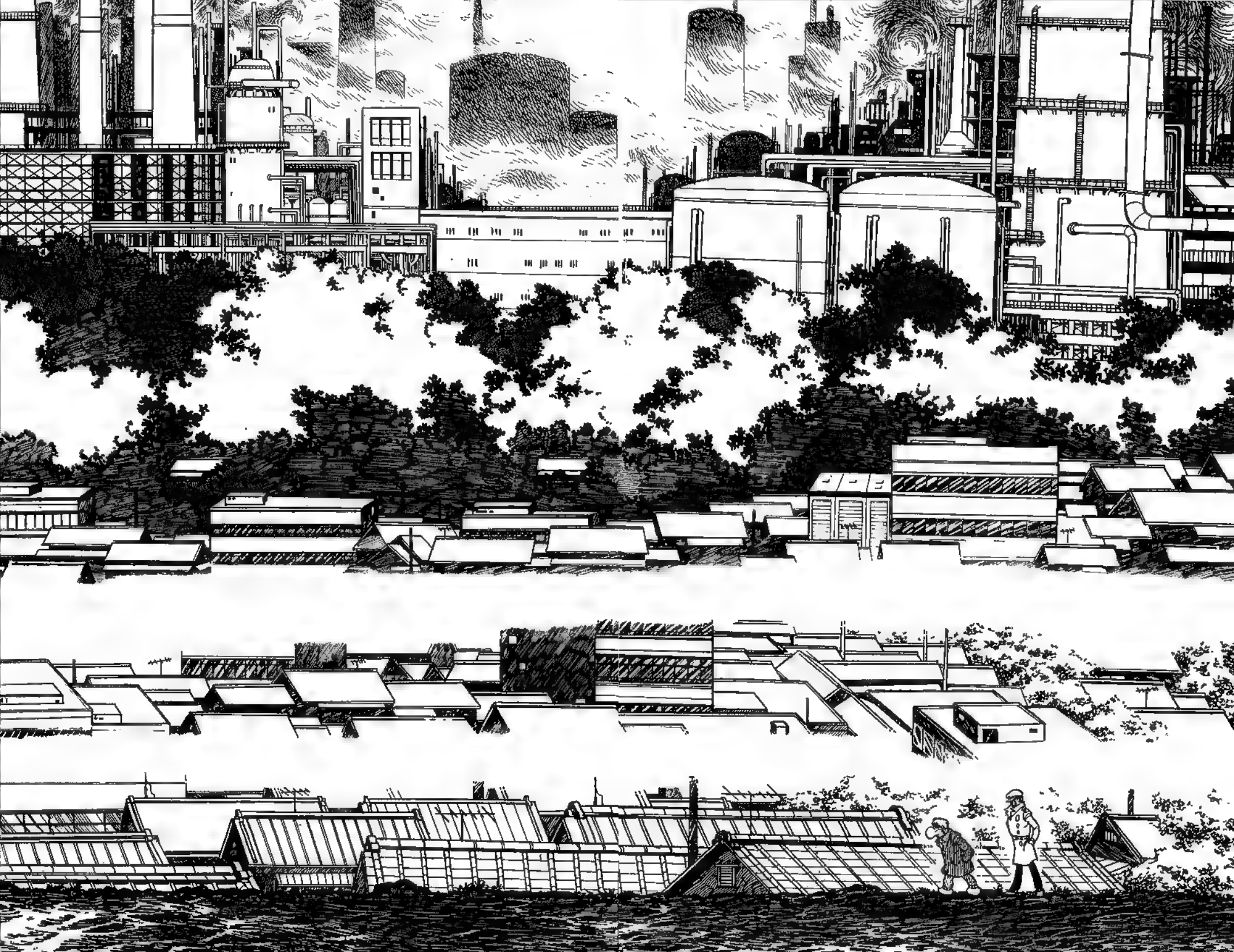
CHAPTER 3 PRESENTED BY HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY SONICKRAZY
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING AND REDRAWS BY KAZUHIKO


THE STORK...! THE STORK IS... IS...! IS DEAD...!!
HAHAHAH

GOOOOD, THAT'S THE WAY!

THAT'S HOW YOU SHOULD BE... JUST FOLLOW ALONG BEHIND ME, QUIETLY!

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO LOOK AT YOUR UGLY BLACK-AND-BLUE FACE OR HEAR YOUR WHINY VOICE!



JUST TAKE A LOOK AT ALL THAT SMOKE UP THERE!

...WELL, I GUESS IT'S 'CAUSE THEY DON'T THINK OF US HUMANS' LIVES ALL THAT MUCH...

HEH! THAT GUY SURE IS GETTIN' WHAT'S COMIN' TO 'IM!

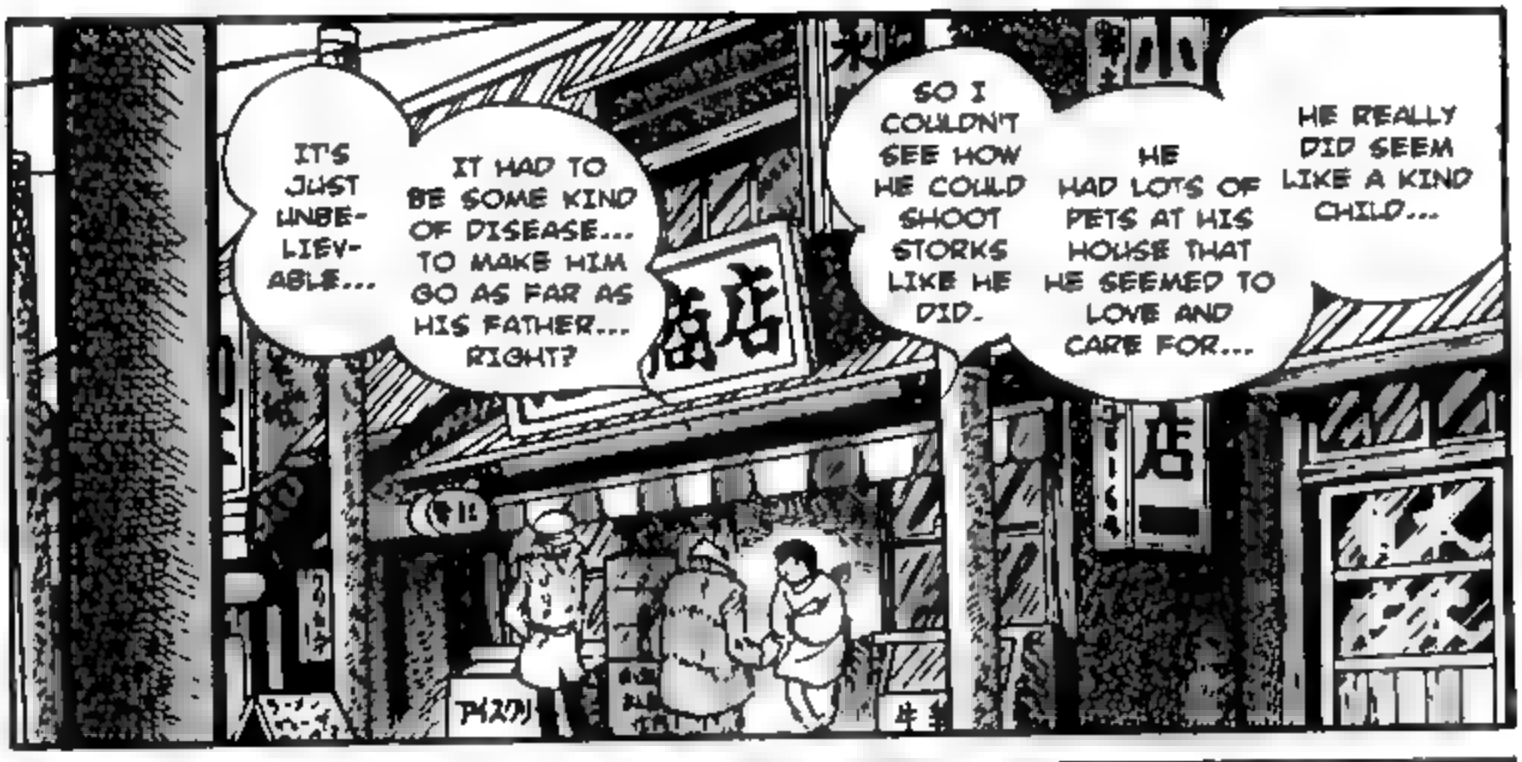
THE GODS'VE SEEN TO IT THAT HE GOT PUNISHED FOR WHAT HE DID!

AFTER BREATHIN' IN ALL THEM FUMES DAY IN AND DAY OUT, IT'S NO WONDER THE KID WENT BONKERS!

AH... THAT BOY WAS...

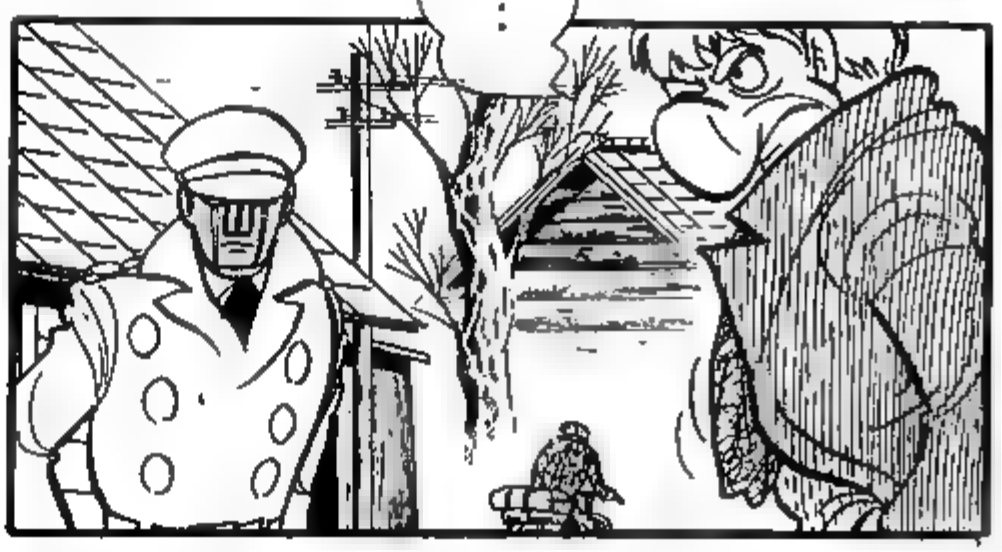
HOW TO SAY IT...

EVEN NOW, I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT...!


IT'S JUST UNBELIEVABLE...
IT HAD TO BE SOME KIND OF DISEASE... TO MAKE HIM GO AS FAR AS HIS FATHER... RIGHT?
SO I COULDN'T SEE HOW HE COULD SHOOT STORKS LIKE HE DID.
HE HAD LOTS OF PETS AT HIS HOUSE THAT HE SEEMED TO LOVE AND CARE FOR...
HE REALLY DID SEEM LIKE A KIND CHILD...
JUN-CHAN...
HIS DAD WAS... WELL, HE OWNED ONE OF THOSE BIG FACTORIES... AND HE SEEMED TO TALK BAD ABOUT HIS SON, BUT...
AND HE...
HE LIKED ALL OF THEM...!
JUN-CHAN HAD A LOT OF FRIENDS AND...
HIS GRADES IN SCHOOL SEEMED PRETTY GOOD, BUT...
WELL...
...THE RUMOR WAS THAT TALK ABOUT HIS OLD MAN'S FACTORY GOT HIM RATHER ON EDGE.

THEY SAY THAT EVEN REGULAR PARENTS CAN MAKE A GENIUS CHILD...
AND ALL I KNOW ABOUT THAT ESTATE AND THAT KID ARE FROM RUMORS, SO...

SO HE WAS SUCH A GOOD KID, WAS HE?
HEH ...


...

HOW UNBELIEV-ABLE IT IS THAT SUCH A GOOD KID COULD GO CRAZY FROM PAINT THINNER...

...AND SHOOT HIS FATHER WITH A RIFLE. THAT KIND OF TALK.

IT'S SO UNBELIEV-ABLE, IS IT?

HEH!

ALL WE'RE GETTING IS USELESS OPINIONS!

YOU CAN'T SOLVE A CRIME JUST BY ASKING AROUND!

THE ONLY THING WE'RE LOOKING FOR IS COLD HARD FACTS!

...

...THAT ASIDE, THOSE YOUNG KIDS NOWADAYS ARE JUST...

HUH...?

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NO, I DON'T REALLY MIND...

IT'S JUST THAT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT TOKYO IS INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT ABOUT, AS WELL.

OH, NO...

AH, GOOD AFTERNOON...

I'M CHIYABATAKE, FROM SHIZUOKA STATION.

SHIBA FROM THE TOKYO POLICE DEPARTMENT. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.

A TYPICAL MURDERER?!

HUH?

THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS?

YES... THERE WAS A FAIR AMOUNT OF IT IN JUN'S HOUSE.

SO, DID YOU FIND THE PAINT THINNER THAT THE BOY WAS HUFFING?

EVEN THOUGH THE RUMORS MIGHT SAY THAT, THE RESULTS OF OUR EXAMINATION TELL US QUITE THE CONTRARY.

WELL, I'M AFRAID TO TELL YOU...

...

EVEN IF IT DOESN'T LEAD TO THIS OUTRAGEOUS DEGREE...

IN SHIZUOKA, EVERYTHING FROM BODILY INJURIES TO TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS...

HE WAS CAUSED BY PEOPLE HUFFING PAINT THINNER

NORMALLY, HE WAS A PERFECTLY GENTLE AND KIND LITTLE BOY.

RAISING ALL KINDS OF FLOWERS, SMALL BIRDS, SMALL ANIMALS, AND CARING FOR THEM...

HE WAS TAKING CARE OF THIS GREEN HOUSE BY HIMSELF.

HERE, LOOK FOR YOURSELF.

FOR HIM TO START HUFFING PAINT THINNER AND DOING WHAT HE DID!

SO THAT'S WHY IT WAS SO UNEXPECTED...

HEY, WHAT'S UP?

IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT DOG?!

IT'S... PROBABLY JUST... THAT DOG'S A BIT ON THE BIG SIDE, HUH?

OH, UH...

WHAT IS IT?

DID IT BELONG TO THE KID, TOO?

HMM?

WELL, I... I'M NOT QUITE SURE, BUT...

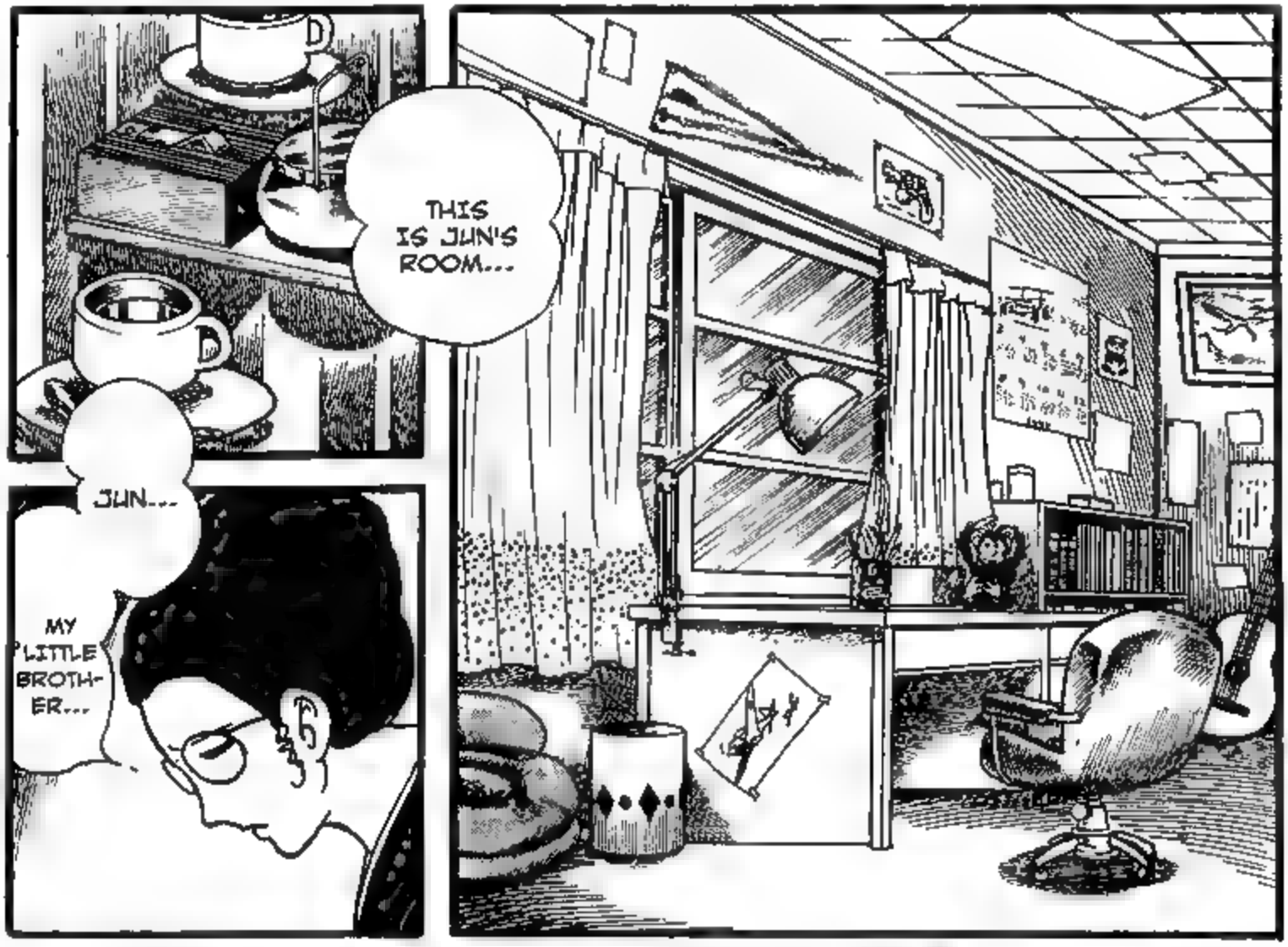
I DO RECALL THE BOY NOT LIKING ANIMALS WITH FIERCE FACES LIKE THAT...

IF IT'S IMPORTANT, WE CAN ASK THEM LATER.

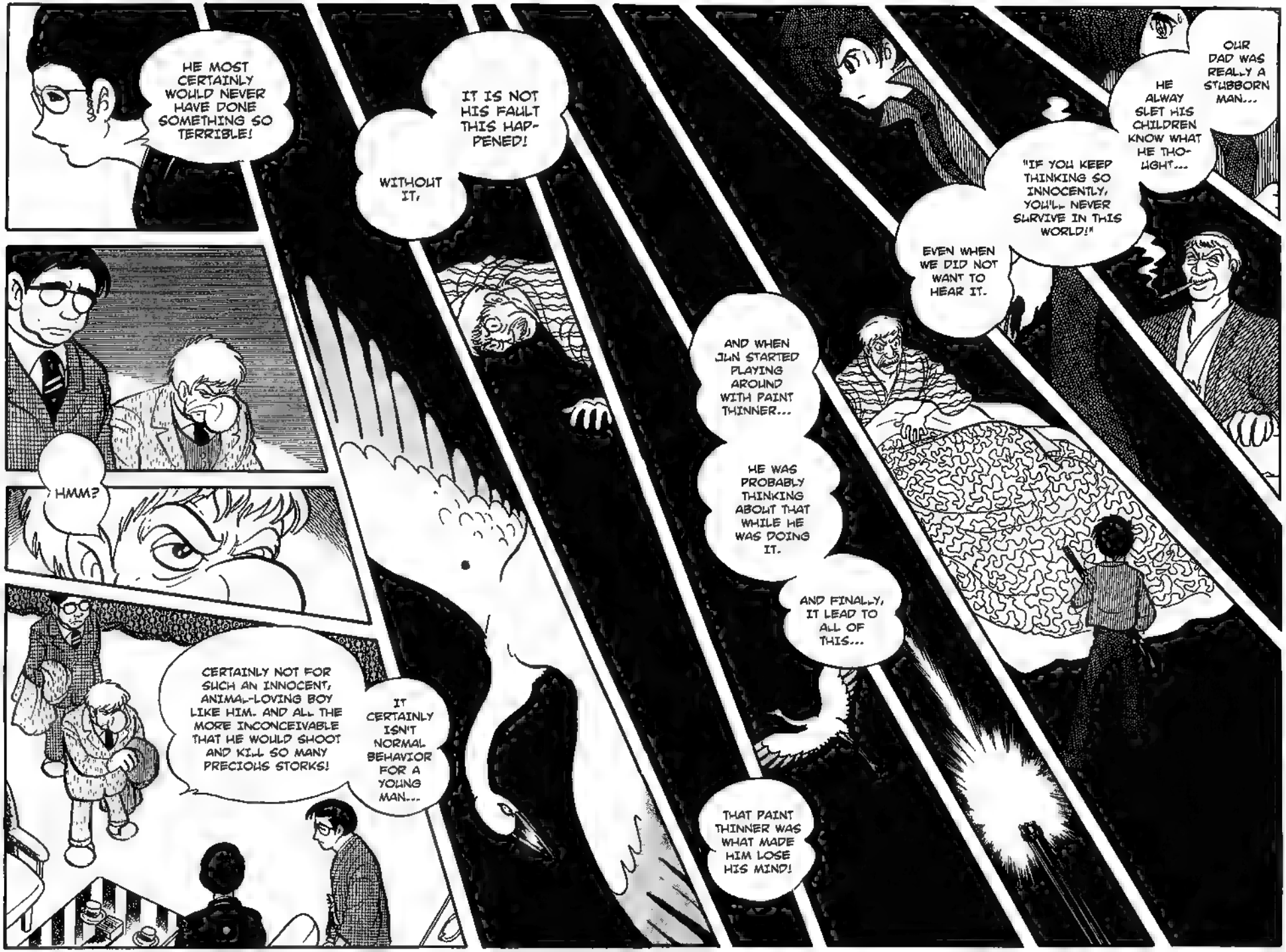
OH, NO, IT'S NOT REALLY ANYTHING MUCH...

RECENTLY, CASES LIKE THIS HAVE BEEN INCREASING RAPIDLY...

WE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO ENFORCE IT WELL ENOUGH.


THIS IS JUN'S ROOM...
JUN...
MY LITTLE BROTHER...

OHH?
WAS A VERY KIND AND GENTLE LITTLE BOY... OUR FATHER'S VIEW OF HIM WAS COMPLETELY WRONG.
HE WAS ALWAYS BOTHERED BY PEOPLE WHO SAID HIS WORK WAS DESTROYING THE ENVIRONMENT...
OUR FATHER'S JOB WAS ALWAYS A LITTLE WORRYING...
THAT IS WHAT HE ALWAYS TOLD US.


HE MOST CERTAINLY WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE SOMETHING SO TERRIBLE!
IT IS NOT HIS FAULT THIS HAP-PENED!
WITHOUT IT,
OUR DAD WAS REALLY A STUBBORN MAN...
HE ALWAY SLET HIS CHILDREN KNOW WHAT HE THO-UGHT...
"IF YOU KEEP THINKING SO INNOCENTLY, YOU'LL NEVER SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD!"
EVEN WHEN WE DID NOT WANT TO HEAR IT.
AND WHEN JUN STARTED PLAYING AROUND WITH PAINT THINNER...
HE WAS PROBABLY THINKING ABOUT THAT WHILE HE WAS DOING IT.
AND FINALLY, IT LEAD TO ALL OF THIS...
THAT PAINT THINNER WAS WHAT MADE HIM LOSE HIS MIND!
HMM?
CERTAINLY NOT FOR SUCH AN INNOCENT, ANIMAL-LOVING BOY LIKE HIM. AND ALL THE MORE INCONCEIVABLE THAT HE WOULD SHOOT AND KILL SO MANY PRECIOUS STORKS!
IT CERTAINLY ISN'T NORMAL BEHAVIOR FOR A YOUNG MAN...

...AH.

AH, YEAH ...

THAT WAS...

ABOUT HALF A MONTH AGO...

OH... WELL, NO... THAT'S THE LAND-LORD'S...

THAT HUGE DOG IN A CAGE BACK IN THE GARDEN... DOES THAT BELONG TO YOUR BROTHER, AS WELL?

OH, RIGHT, RIGHT, THAT DOG BACK THERE...

LEFT HIM THERE FOR THEM TO TAKE CARE OF...

A FRIEND WHO WAS GOING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY...

WHY I WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT THAT, EITHER...!!

URGH...

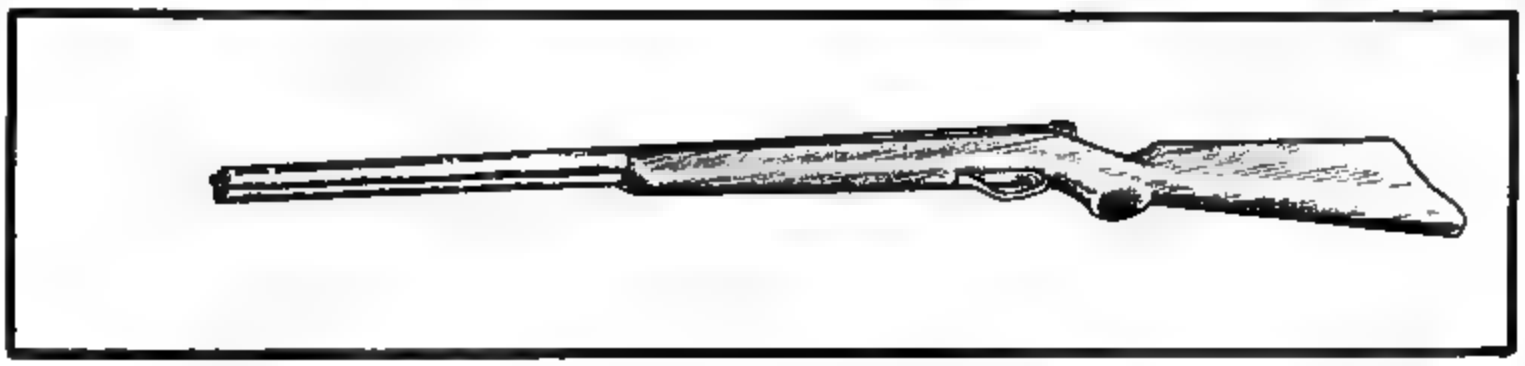
I-I DON'T REALLY KNOW...

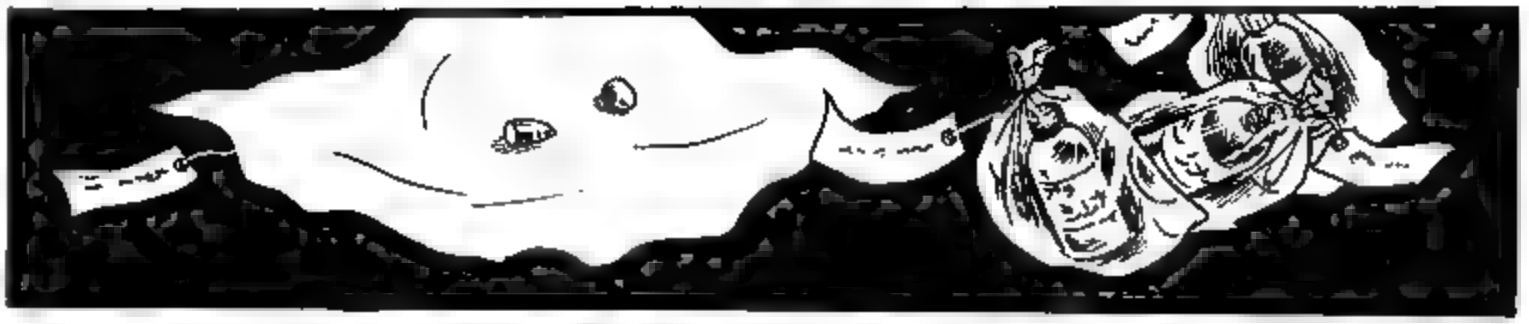
MAY I ASK WHY YOU'RE SO FIXATED ON THAT DOG, SIR?

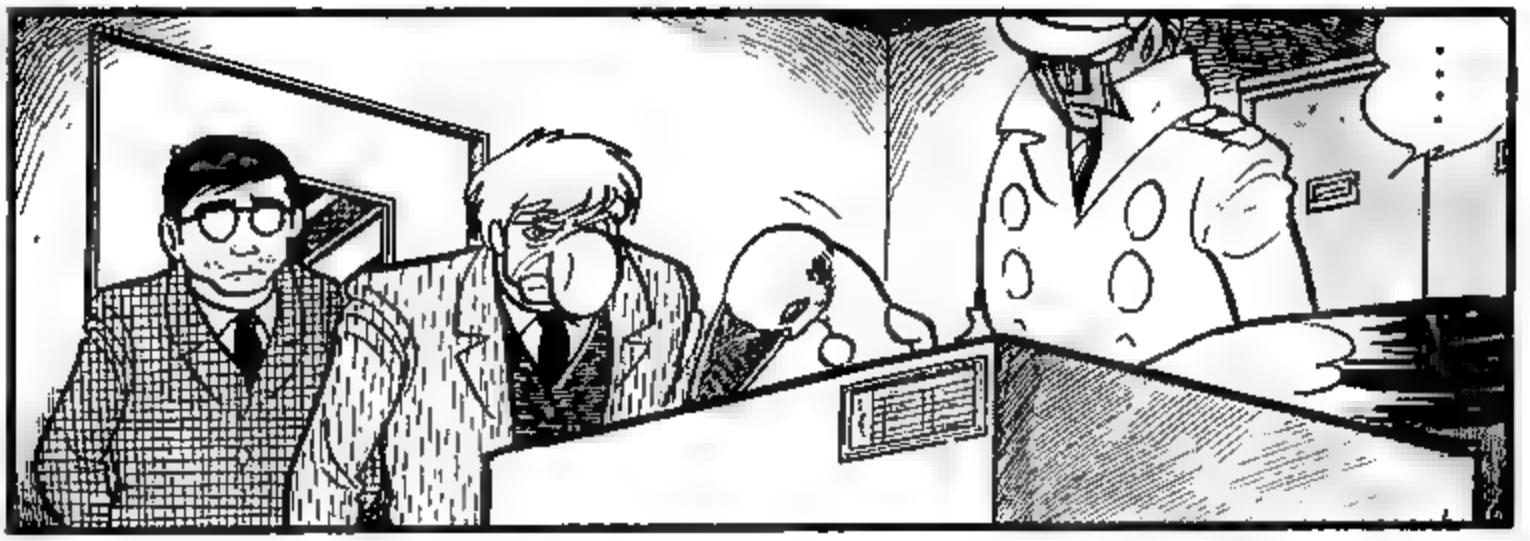
IT'S PROBABLY JUST THAT HUNK OF SCRAP IRON THAT'S GOTTEN MY INTUITION SO OUT OF SYNCH...!

DAMMIT, DON'T GET SIDE-TRACKED!!

SHIZUOKA
STATION






……

THE... THE PAINT THINNER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS! IT'S TRUE!!

IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE PAINT THINNER!

I'M CRAZY!!

THERE... THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME...

PLEASE... GIVE ME... GIVE ME THE DEATH PENALTY...!

SEND THAT BOY BACK HOME.

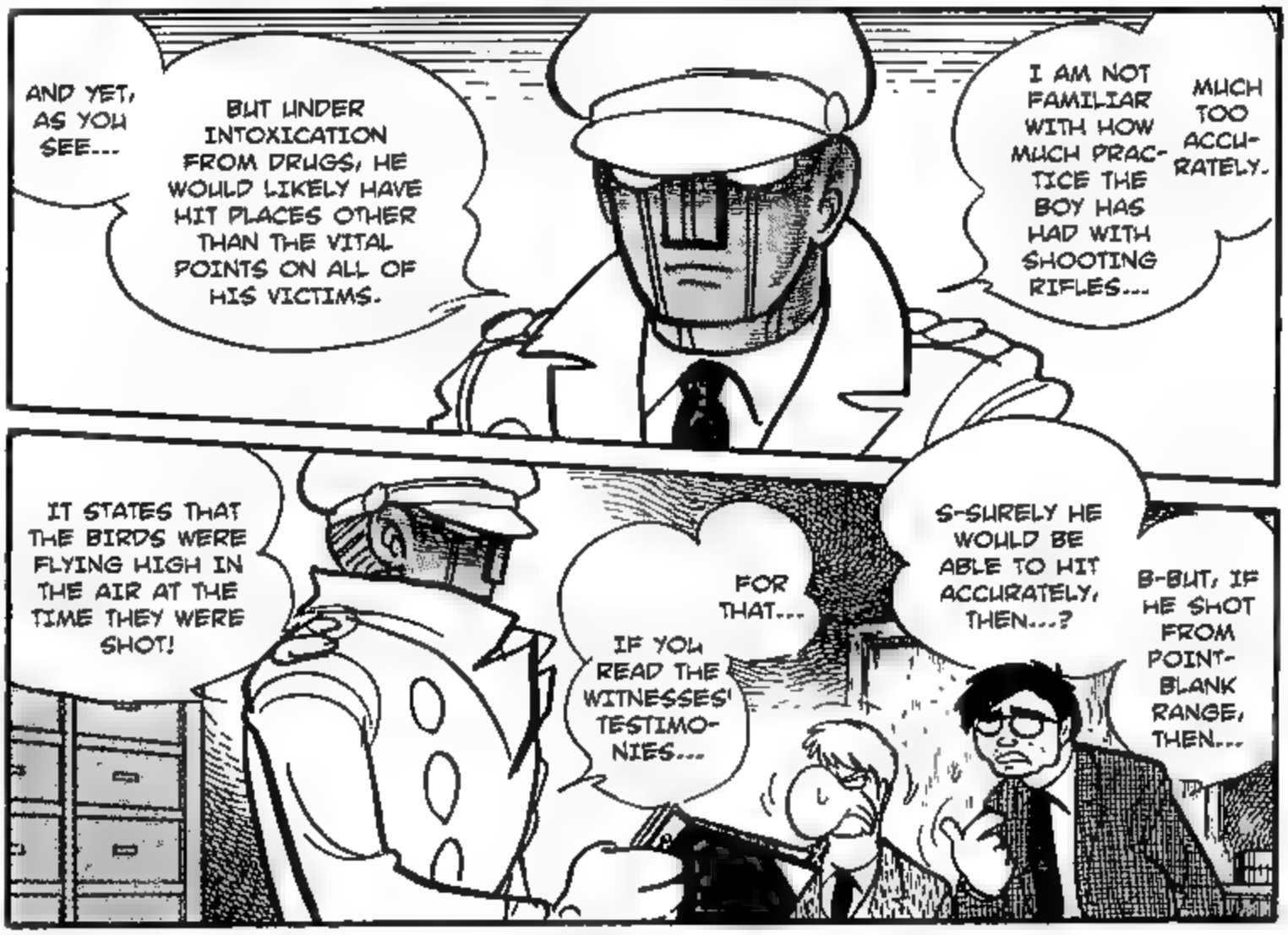
D... DADDY ...!!

DADDY ...!!!

THE HEARTS AND HEADS OF THE VICTIMS WERE HIT ACCURATELY.
IF YOU LOOK AT HIS FATHER'S AND THE STORKS' BODIES, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.
THAT BOY IS NOT THE CULPRIT IN THIS CASE!

WHAT-?!

-THE HECK?!


AND YET, AS YOU SEE...
BUT UNDER INTOXICATION FROM DRUGS, HE WOULD LIKELY HAVE HIT PLACES OTHER THAN THE VITAL POINTS ON ALL OF HIS VICTIMS.
I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH HOW MUCH PRACTICE THE BOY HAS HAD WITH SHOOTING RIFLES...
MUCH TOO ACCURATELY.
IT STATES THAT THE BIRDS WERE FLYING HIGH IN THE AIR AT THE TIME THEY WERE SHOT!
FOR THAT...
IF YOU READ THE WITNESSES' TESTIMONIES...
S-SURELY HE WOULD BE ABLE TO HIT ACCURATELY, THEN...?
B-BUT, IF HE SHOT FROM POINT-BLANK RANGE, THEN...

RIGHT!

WELL, THEN... IT COULD BE THROUGH COINCI-DENCE...

I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND...

THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN FIRED FROM THE RIFLE THAT BOY WAS WIELDING.

DID YOU SEE THE TRAJECTORY REPORTS?

WHAT?!

AND THE REPORTS DID SHOW THAT, BUT...

B-BUT... STILL... A-AFTER SEEING THE BOY LIKE THAT BACK THERE, WHY ARE YOU STILL CHASING THIS SO FAR...?!

WELL... WELL, I MEAN, YES... THE WIT-NESSES DID SAY THAT...

THAT'S BECAUSE ...

THIS GUY DOESN'T GET THAT AT ALL...

THAT IS SOMETHING WE STILL DO NOT KNOW.

WHO ON EARTH *COULD* THE REAL CULPRIT BE?!

IF THAT KID ISN'T THE CULPRIT AFTER ALL, THEN...

HMM... HEY, YOU! K!

HMPH! I GUESS EVEN SHERLOCK HOLMES HAD STUFF HE JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND!

THERE MIGHT BE A WAY HE HAD TO ACQUIRE THE OLD MAN'S PROPERTY...

SUCH AS A WILL AND TESTAMENT OR SOMETHING OF THE SORT.

BUT DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE OUT OF THE QUESTION TO INVESTIGATE THE ATTORNEY AT THAT HOUSE A BIT FURTHER?

CHAPTER 4 PRESENTED BY HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY SONICKRAZY
CLEANED BY WRIGHT
TYPESETTING AND REDRAWING KAZUHIKO

THIS IS THE CONVER-SATION TAKING PLACE INSIDE.

"YEAH..."

"THEY SAID YOU'RE NOT THE CULPRIT ...?"

THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?!

MY EARS ARE CAPABLE OF HEARING SOUNDS FROM 200 METERS AWAY IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

"THAT... THAT CAN'T...! I MEAN..."

"WELL... WELL, THEN... WHO... WHO *DID* KILL FATHER?!"

THEY DID TELL ME THEY HAVE ANOTHER SUSPECT... AND THEY'LL BE ABLE TO GET EVIDENCE ON THEM BEFORE LONG...

BUT...

THEY DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT...

THE BOY HAS MOVED UP TO HIS ROOM, AND THE SISTER HAS GONE OUTSIDE.

THE SISTER'S HUSBAND HAS GONE SOME-WHERE TO USE A TELEPHONE.

D-DEAR ...?!

...

YOU... YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE HE'S CALLING?!?!

THE LENGTH OF THE SOUND THE ROTARY DIAL MAKES WHILE SPINNING ALLOWS ME TO DISCERN WHICH NUMBERS ARE BEING INPUTTED

HE IS CALLING TOKYO.

"LET THE DOG OUT OF ITS CAGE...?

"...IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S TAKING A TURN FOR THE WORST... YEAH..."

"YES, WE STILL HAVE THE DOG."

LET US INVESTI-GATE THIS PHONE NUMBER LATER.

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.
THAT... YES... OKAY... I UNDER-STAND
WH-WHY WOULD YOU WANT ME TO-...?!
...A "DOG"...?
WHERE D'YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
H-HEY!!
HEY! WHAT'S WRONG WITH LETTING THAT DOG OUTSIDE?!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
WH... WHAT? WHY?!
PLEASE COME WITH ME, QUICKLY.
THAT DOG CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO BE SET LOOSE.

WAUGH!!

YOU NEVER TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING...

URR RRR GHH...

GOD... DAM- MIT!!

YOU GOD- DAMNED TIN CAN!!

THE GROUND IS STILL WET, SO PLEASE BE CAREFUL.

ARE YOU OKAY?

AND DON'T TOUCH ME!! YOU'LL GET YOUR MOTOR OIL ALL OVER ME!

DON'T WAIT UNTIL I FALL OVER TO TELL ME THAT!!

OW... OWOWOW OW...

SFX. URRRRRGH...

SHUT UP!!

WE HAVE TO HURRY!!

I HAVEN'T STOOPED SO LOW TO NEED HELP FROM THE LIKES OF YOU!

VERY WELL!

IF IT'S SO IMPORTANT, WHY DON'T YOU JUST HURRY ON ALONE, HUH?!

YOU EXPECT ME TO KEEP UP WITH A MACHINE?!

YOU MUSTN'T LET IT LOOSE!!

STOP THAT!

...

GHH!

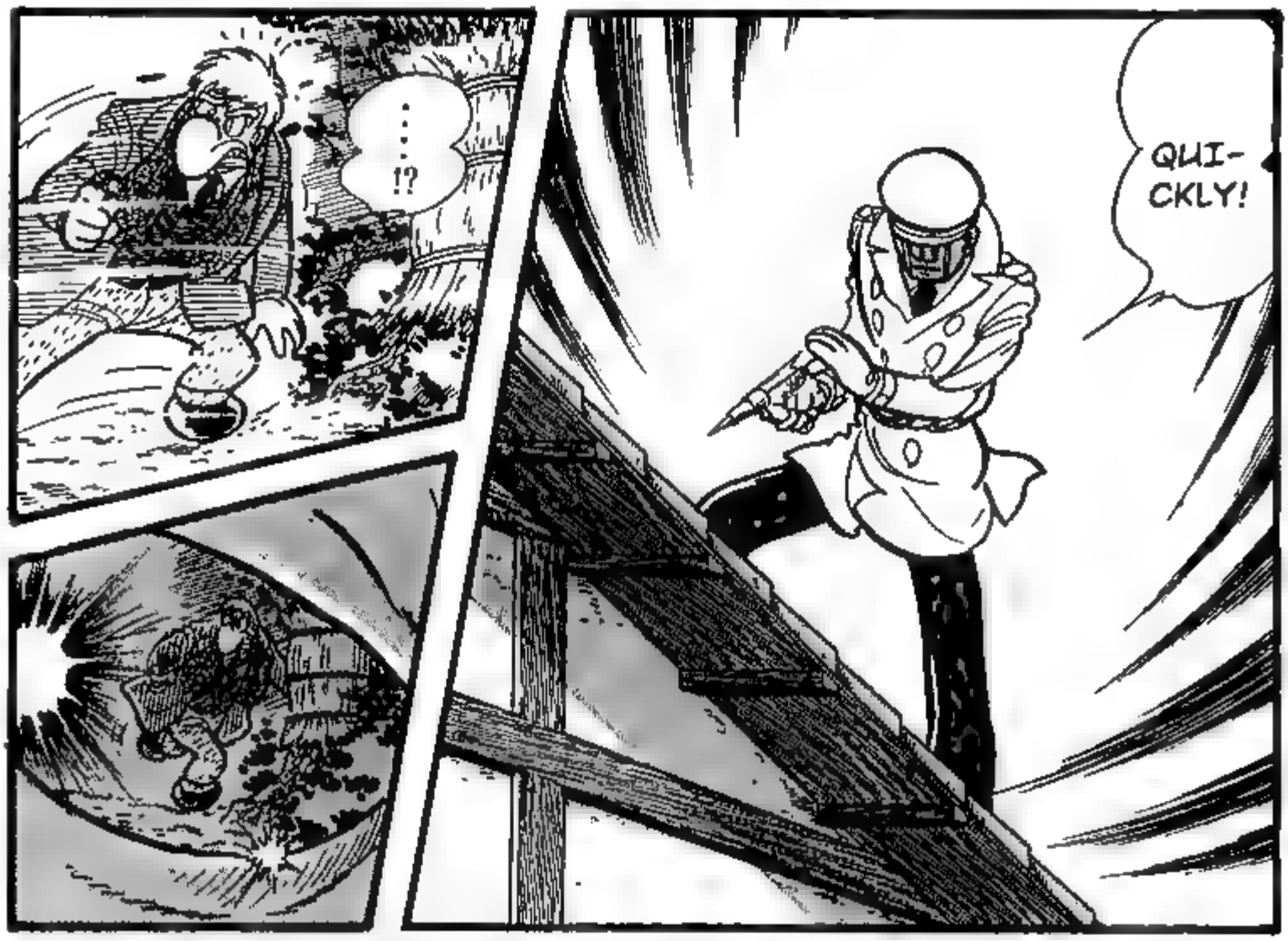
A-

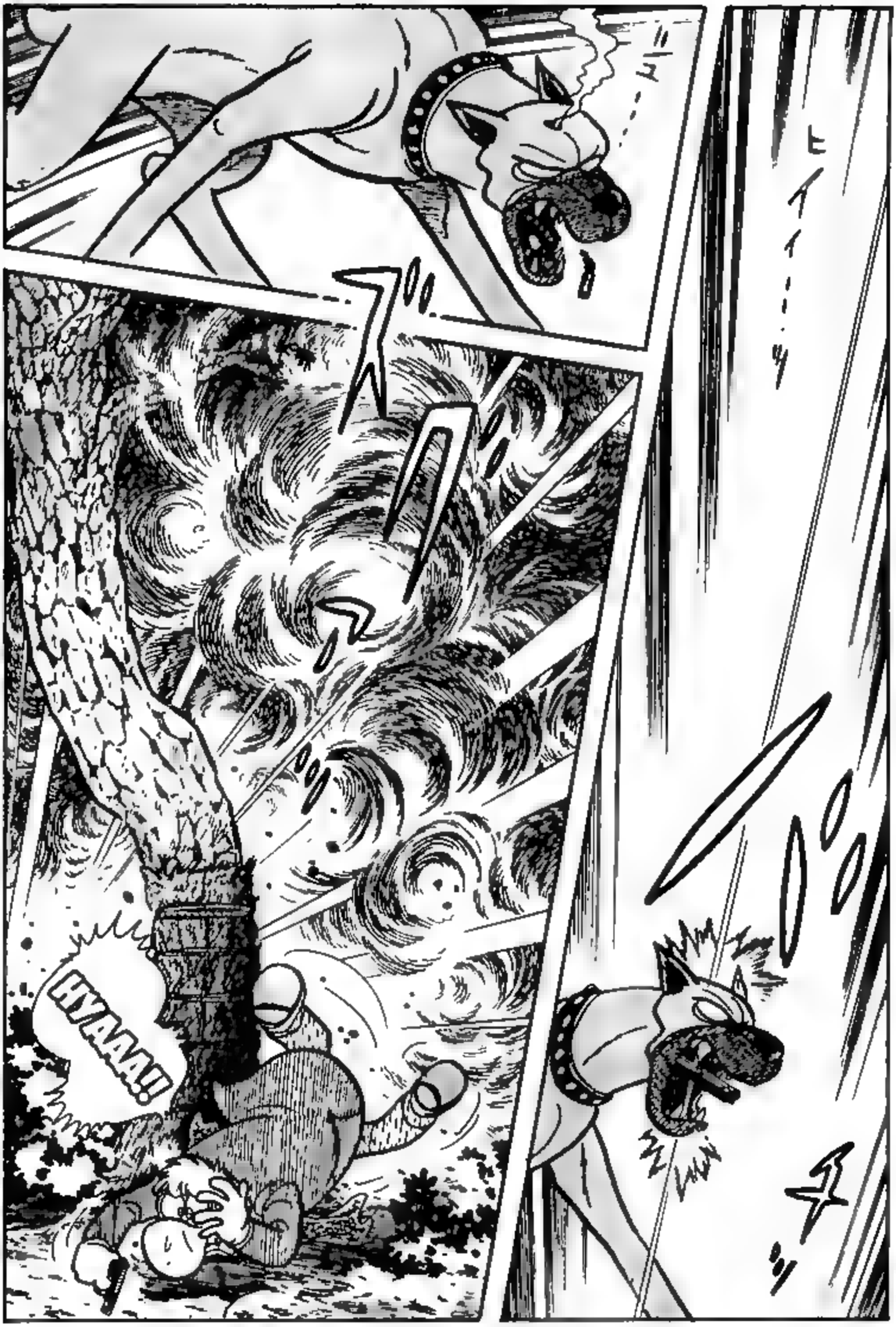
78

AH?!

MMH?!
THIS IS BAD...!
MR. SHIBA!!

SIR!
MOVE BEHIND THAT TREE!!
HURRY,


……!?
QUI-CKLY!
NO YOU DON'T!


ヒィィ…
ヒィィ…
ギャーーーッ!!

!?

WAH...!

AHH...!!

……

HEEE!!

AS I SUSPECTED, IT IS DESIGNED TO SELF-DESTRUCT UPON TERMINATION.

A ROBOT DOG.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!

YOU SCARED ME HALF TO DEATH!!

D... DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!!

WHAT WAS A ROBOT DOING HERE?!

WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT?!

MM...?!
AH...! D... D...! D-D-DEAR...?!?!
MY... MY FATHER... ALWAYS HATED ME...
ONLY BECAUSE I LOOKED JUST LIKE MY MOTHER!!
OUR MOTHER... LEFT OUR FATHER TO TAKE CARE OF US ALONE WHEN ALL OF US WERE STILL VERY YOUNG...

BUT MY MOTHER WAS NOT A BAD PERSON!

FATHER WORKED AND WORKED ALL DAY AND NEVER CAME HOME TO HIS FAMILY... SO ALL OF THIS... THIS SITUATION...

IT WAS MY FATHER'S FAULT ALL OF THIS CAME TO BE!!

THE THOUGHT TO KILL MY FATHER...

CAME AFTER WE CALLED OUR ATTORNEY ON A WHIM TO FIND OUT THE CONTENTS OF MY FATHER'S WILL.

HIS WILL STATED... THAT HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE WOULD GO TO JUN, MY YOUNGER BROTHER!!

THAT WAS ABOUT 1 MONTH AGO...

THE MAN LYING HERE WAS THE ONE WHO GOT THE PAINT THINNER... AND THAT DOG, FROM GOD KNOWS WHERE.

HE WAS THE ONE WHO MADE JUN INGEST THOSE CHEMICALS... AND MADE HIM OUT TO BE A FATHER-KILLING LUNATIC.

WAS... WAS EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTED YOU TO!! AHH... AHHH...!
AND THAT HE KILLED HIS FATHER IN A BOUT OF INSANITY... EVERYTHING YOU THOUGHT..
THE IDEA THAT JUN KILLED THOSE STORKS...

.....
WITH THIS AND THE MOTIVE THE MADAM GAVE US, WE HAVE EVERY-THING WE NEED!
SH-SHIBA-SAN! WE HAVE A COPY OF HIS TESTAMENT!

THE STORKS YOU FOUND WERE ALREADY DEAD!!
THERE WERE NO STORKS!!

THIS MAN DID ALL OF AND THAT! ALSO...
HE WAS THE ONE... WHO SHOT OUR FATHER.
AND JUN, WHO HAD BEEN FORCED TO DRINK PAINT THINNER... WAS MORE ASLEEP THAN HE WAS AWAKE.
THEN, HE HANDED HIS GUN OVER TO THAT HALF-ASLEEP BOY AND TOLD HIM HE'D DONE IT.
THERE'S NO WAY STORKS WOULD EVER FLY OVER THIS POLLUTED WASTELAND OF A TOWN... YOUR MIND WASN'T RIGHT.
HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR RIGHT MIND AND FED YOU THAT ILLUSION!
EVERY-THING WAS AN ILLUSION!

AH... WELL, UM... I ALSO HAVE THE INSPECTION OF THE TRAJECTORY OF THE BULLET...

AND IT SEEMS THE BULLET THAT ENTERED THE FATHER'S BODY MOST CERTAINLY...

IT SEEMS IT WAS A DIFFERENT RELATIVE OF HIS THAT PULLED THE TRIGGER, DON'T YOU THINK?

IF WE WERE TO FILE THIS AS AN EVENT OF PSYCHOSIS OR AS A CHILD KILLING THEIR PARENT AFTER WHAT JUST HAPPENED, WE'D BE DEEMED QUASI-INCOMPETENT BY THE GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

CAME FROM THE RIFLE THAT THE BOY WAS FOUND CARRYING...

THE STORKS WERE SHOT BY THE DOG.

AND... AND AS FOR THE STORKS...

SH... SHIBA-SAN...?!

HUH?!

WHA-?!

WHAT... WHAT DID YOU...?! THE DOG DID WHAT NOW?!

...

A-A-AND THAT... THAT FACE...?!

WHAT... WHAT EXACTLY IS THAT GUY, ANYWAY?!

...

HE... HE WAS SEVERELY BURNT IN A FIRE... SO HE HAS TO WEAR THAT MASK AROUND AT ALL TIMES...

BUT HE'S A... A... AN EXCELLENT DETECTIVE, SO HE WAS ALLOWED TO KEEP HIS JOB.

I ALWAYS HATED...

THERE REALLY WASN'T ANYTHING TO HATE ABOUT IT...!

WHAT MY DAD DID FOR A LIVING, BUT...

EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HIM...

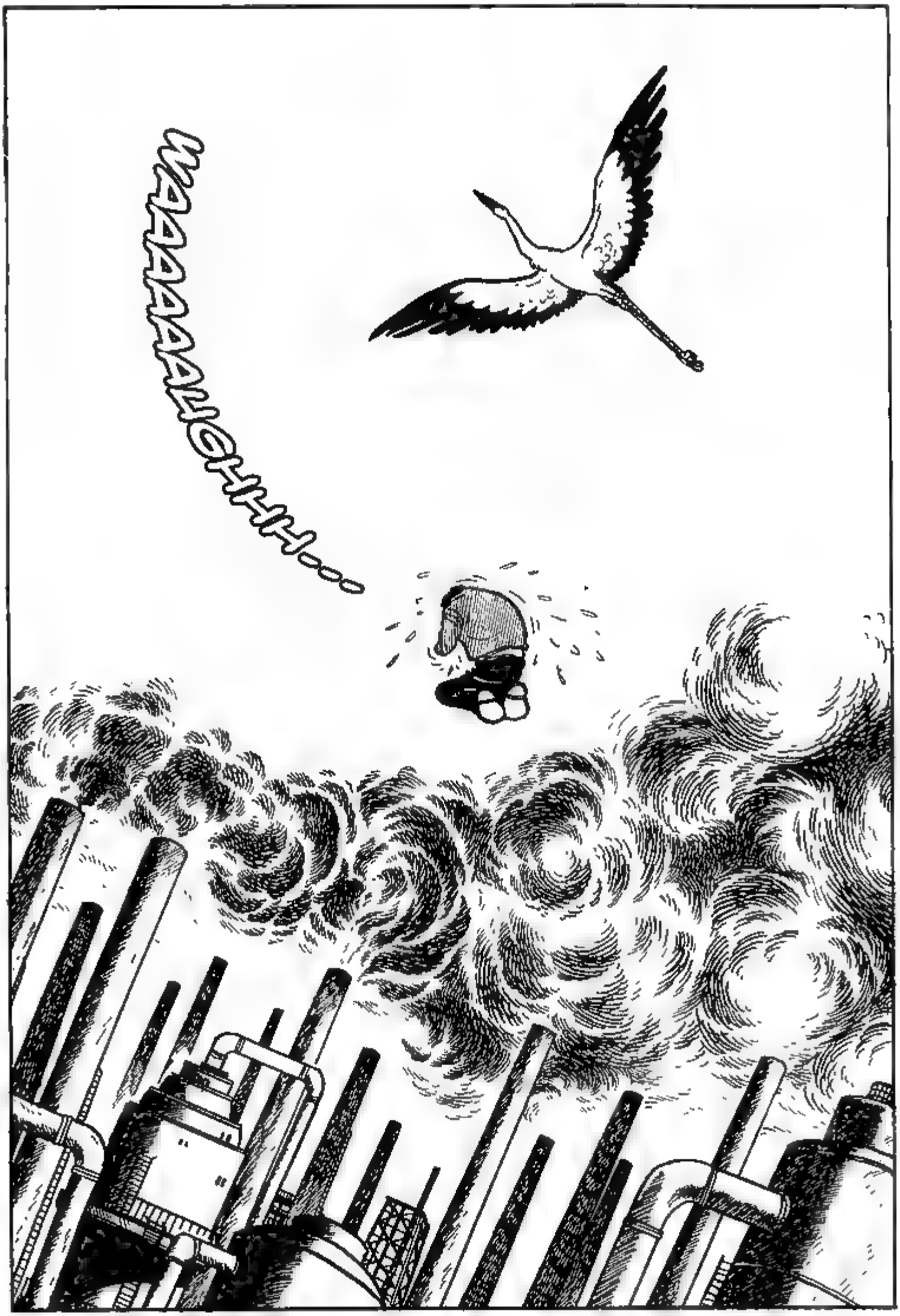
WAS HIS WAY OF EXPRESS-ING IT!

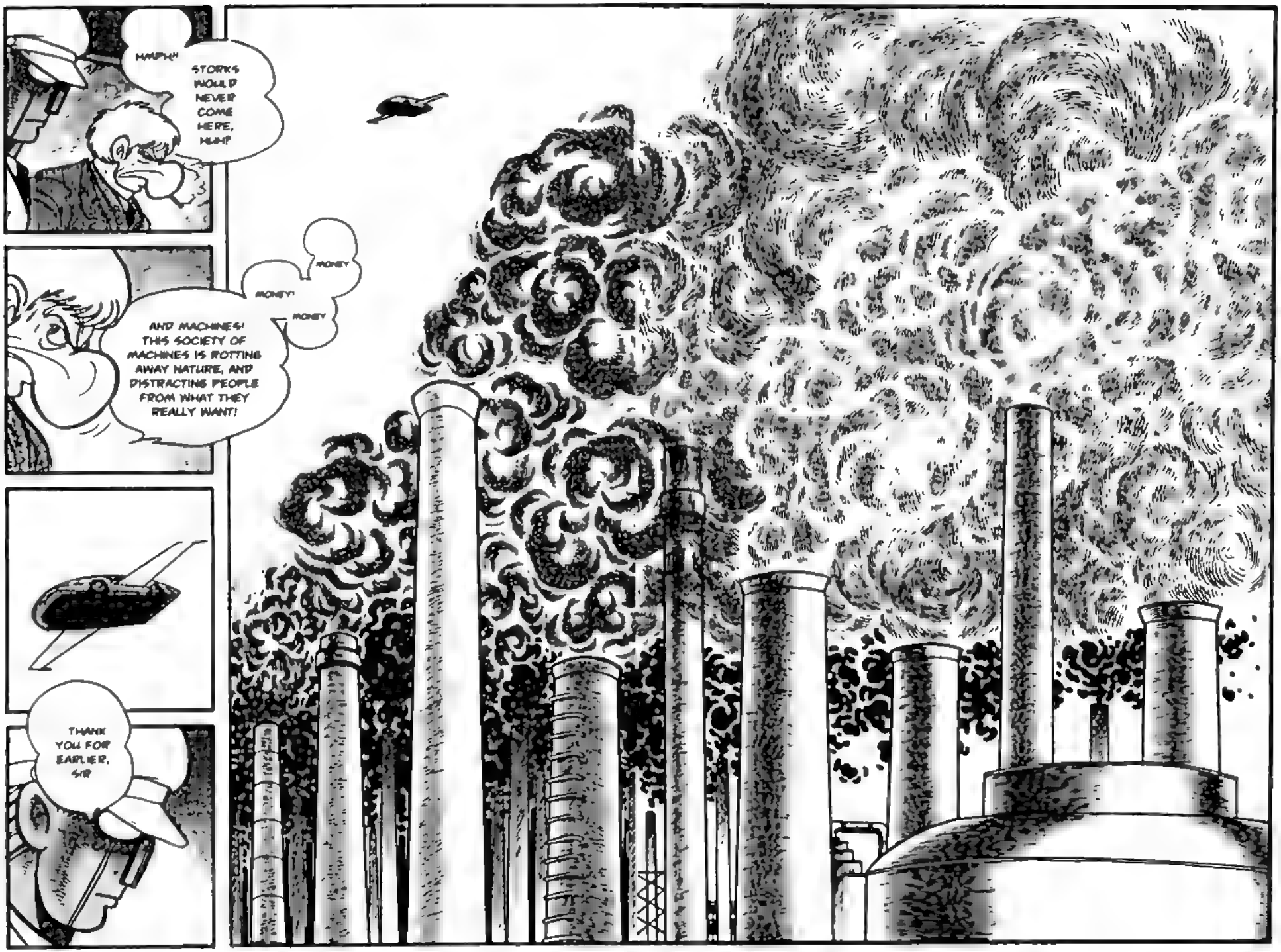
LEAVING HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE TO ME...

HE TRULY DID LOVE ME...

MY DAD... WAS A MAN WHO WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET MORE MONEY, BUT...

TIME AND TIME AGAIN... THAT I DON'T NEED WEALTH, MONEY, FAME OR FORTUNE...!!


ハアアアアアアアアー


HMPH!
STORKS WOULD'NT NEVER COME HERE, HUH?
MONEY
MONEY!
MONEY
AND MACHINES! THIS SOCIETY OF MACHINES IS ROTTING AWAY NATURE, AND DISTRACTING PEOPLE FROM WHAT THEY REALLY WANT!
THANK YOU FOR EARLIER, SIR

TO COVER UP FOR ME. I THANK YOU FOR THAT.

...FOR SAYING THAT I WAS A HUMAN...

MM?

I HAD TO MAKE UP THAT STORY!!

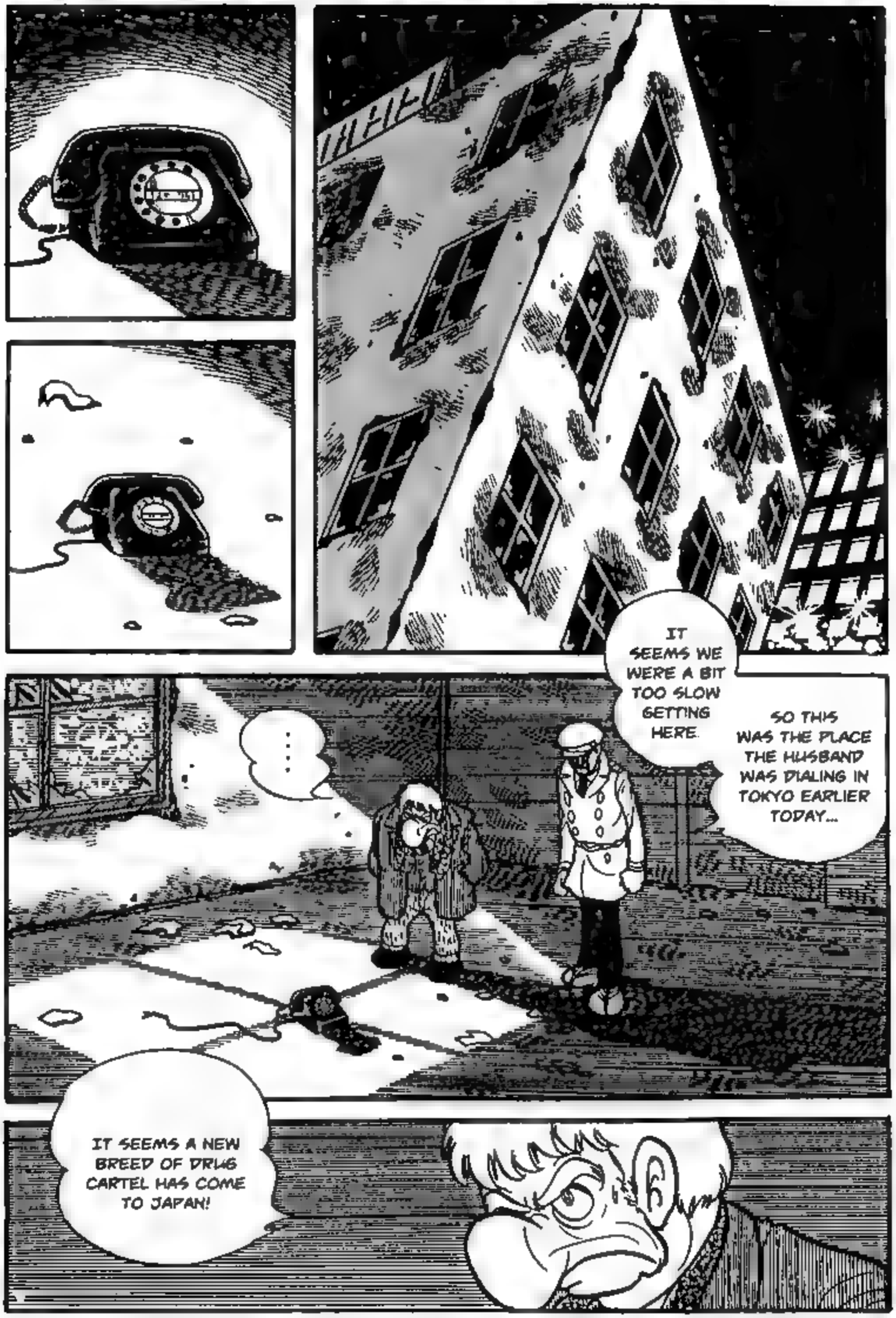
I'D BE ASHAMED TO TELL ANYONE I WAS PARTNERED WITH AN OVERSIZED CLOCKWORK DOLL, SO...

OF COURSE I HAD TO SAY YOU WERE HUMAN!!

D-DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!!

...

KHEH!


IT SEEMS WE WERE A BIT TOO SLOW GETTING HERE.
SO THIS WAS THE PLACE THE HUSBAND WAS DIALING IN TOKYO EARLIER TODAY...
IT SEEMS A NEW BREED OF DRUG CARTEL HAS COME TO JAPAN!

TO THE CULPRIT OF TAMAGAWA WHILE HE WAS IN JAIL...?!
YOU MEAN THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR SMUGGLING THE PAINT THINNER...
WE BELIEVE THAT THIS SECRET ORGANIZATION WAS CONTROLLING THAT ROBOT DOG WE FACED... AND ALSO A ROBOT CAT TO SMUGGLE THE PAINT THINNER TO THE PRISONER.
THOUGH I HAVE NO EVIDENCE THUS FAR TO SUPPORT THIS.
OF THOSE TWO ROBOT ANIMALS... IT IS MY PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THEY WERE PURCHASED FROM AN ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT ORGANIZATION...
AND AS FOR WHETHER OR NOT THIS DRUG CARTEL IS IN DIRECT OWNERSHIP...
HEY, SHIBA-KUN..
WHAT'S WRONG?
....

IT'S JUST ONE ROBOT AFTER ANOTHER!!

RRRRGH...

WH-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?!

I... I CAN'T PUT UP WITH IT ANYMORE!!

HASHIMOTO!! I...

AND... THAT ROBOT!!

W-WHAT THE HELL IS HE...

WHAT IS THAT MONSTER?!

WHO CREATED HIM?!

WHERE DID HE COME FROM?!

THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND I KNOW ABOUT, BUT HERE'S THE TRUTH.

CALM DOWN, SHIBA... I GET IT ALREADY... I'LL TELL YOU

IT WAS A DAY AROUND A MONTH AGO.
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL RECEIVED A LETTER IN THE MAIL... IT WAS VERY NICELY HANDWRITTEN, YOU COULD TELL A WOMAN HAD WRITTEN IT.
IT SAID, "BEFORE LONG, YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT WILL LIKELY FIND ITSELF ENGROSSED IN A FRIGHTENING CASE THAT CANNOT BE SOLVED WITH HUMAN HANDS ALONE. IN ORDER TO AID YOU WITH THE CASE WHEN THAT TIME COMES, I AM SENDING YOU A ROBOT."
"THIS ROBOT IS AN ANDROID EQUIPPED WITH EVERY CRIME-SOLVING MECHANISM THAT MANKIND HAS EVER CREATED."
"PLEASE TRUST ME WHEN I SAY THIS, AND USE HIM AS A ROBOT DETECTIVE. I BELIEVE YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID."
AND SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, K ARRIVED!

YOU DID TRY TO FIND OUT WHO THIS "WOMAN" WAS... AND WHERE SHE'D SENT THIS LETTER FROM... DIDN'T YOU...?!

BUT AFTER WE RAN A FEW TESTS...

WE DIDN'T THINK HE WAS ACTUALLY A ROBOT

AND EVEN WHEN WE SAW K WITH OUR OWN TWO EYES, WE STILL DIDN'T BELIEVE IT

AT FIRST, WE THOUGHT IT WAS SOME SORT OF PRACTICAL JOKE...

I'M NOT...

HMM?

WELL YES, WE DID, BUT IT DIDN'T TURN UP ANYTHING...

...WELL YES... THAT'S TRUE...

ROBOTS AS GOOD AS THAT ONE ARE NOT COMMONPLACE ITEMS!

I'M NOT VERY KNOWLEDGABLE... ABOUT ALL THIS SCIENCE AND ROBOTICS AND WHATNOT, BUT I KNOW ONE THING, FOR SURE...

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO FIND ROBOTS ALL OVER THE PLACE!

HOW-EVER..

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY IT WOULD TAKE TO MAKE ONE OF THOSE...

IN... IN THAT CASE, WHY WOULD SHE SEND K TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE?! WOULDN'T IT JUST PUT HER AT A DISADVANTAGE?!

WHAA?!

TH-THAT CAN'T BE...

AND YET, THE MORE TIME PASSES, THE MORE ROBOTS SEEM TO TURN UP.

THERE WAS THAT ROBOT DOG THAT HAD A RIFLE IN ITS MOUTH...

AND THE ROBOT "CAT" THAT SNUCK POTASSIUM CYANIDE TO THE PRISONER!

HASHI-MOTO...

DO YOU NOT THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT THIS "WOMAN" IS ACTUALLY THE MASTERMIND BEHIND THE VERY CRIME SHE WAS WARNING US ABOUT?!

PHEH!

COME NOW, HAVE YOU GONE SENILE IN YOUR OLD AGE?!

LET ME PUT THIS IN A WAY YOU CAN UNDERSTAND!!

IN ORDER TO GAIN OUR TRUST, SHE SACRIFICED A BIT OF HER TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE!

AND AT THE SAME TIME, SHE PLANTED A SPY IN THE ENEMY'S BASE TO GARNER INFORMATION!!

B-BUT..

WELL, IT ONLY LOOKED LIKE A WOMAN'S HANDWRITING TO ME... I CAN'T SAY IF IT REALLY WAS A WOMAN OR NOT...

WHAT ARE YOU BLATHERING ABOUT... IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE SENDER'S A WOMAN OR NOT!!

THE BOSS OF THIS ORGANIZATION COULD JUST AS EASILY HAVE HAD HIS FEMALE SECRETARY WRITE THAT LETTER!

YES... THE [illegible] ZATION"!!

THEY COULD'VE CREATED A ROBOT ON THAT LEVEL...

GETTING MONEY FROM SOMEWHERE LIKE THE MAFIA... IN ORDER TO FUND ALL THE SCIENTISTS THEY'D NEED FOR SUCH A LARGE-SCALE ORGANIZATION!!

BUT... BUT STILL...

THIS IS WHAT MY INTUITION IS TELLING ME...

THE ROBOT IS A SPY FOR THAT ORGANIZATION!!

YES, IT ALL MAKES SENSE!

THAT ROBOT'S ACTUALLY A SPY!

THIS "WOMAN" SOUGHT TO GET ON THE INSIDE OF OUR OPERATION BY SENDING US AN ALLY...

WHO WOULD COOPERATE WITH US ON SMALL-TIME CASES...

WHILE TRACKING OUR EVERY MOVE AND RELAYING THAT INFORMATION BACK TO HER... TO PREPARE FOR SOME ELABORATE SCHEME IN THE FUTURE!!

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE FOR THIS!

AND BESIDES...

YOU THINK THAT I'M ONLY SAYING THIS BECAUSE I HATE AND DESPISE HIM? THAT I'M VILIFYING HIM?!

THEN WHAT?!

...CERTAINLY, UP UNTIL JUST A BIT AGO...

I DON'T HAVE ANY EVIDENCE FOR THIS!

THIS IS JUST MY INTUITION THAT'S NEVER DONE ME WRONG! IT'S NOT SCIENTIFIC!!

I WASN'T GOING TO OBJECT TO THAT...

YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

THERE'S ALWAYS A "BUT" WITH YOU, HUH!

NO, UM...

I WAS PLANNING ON QUITTING BEING A DETECTIVE IF YOU INSISTED THAT I WORK WITH THAT THING!

BEFORE I DRAGGED YOU OUTSIDE TO TALK...

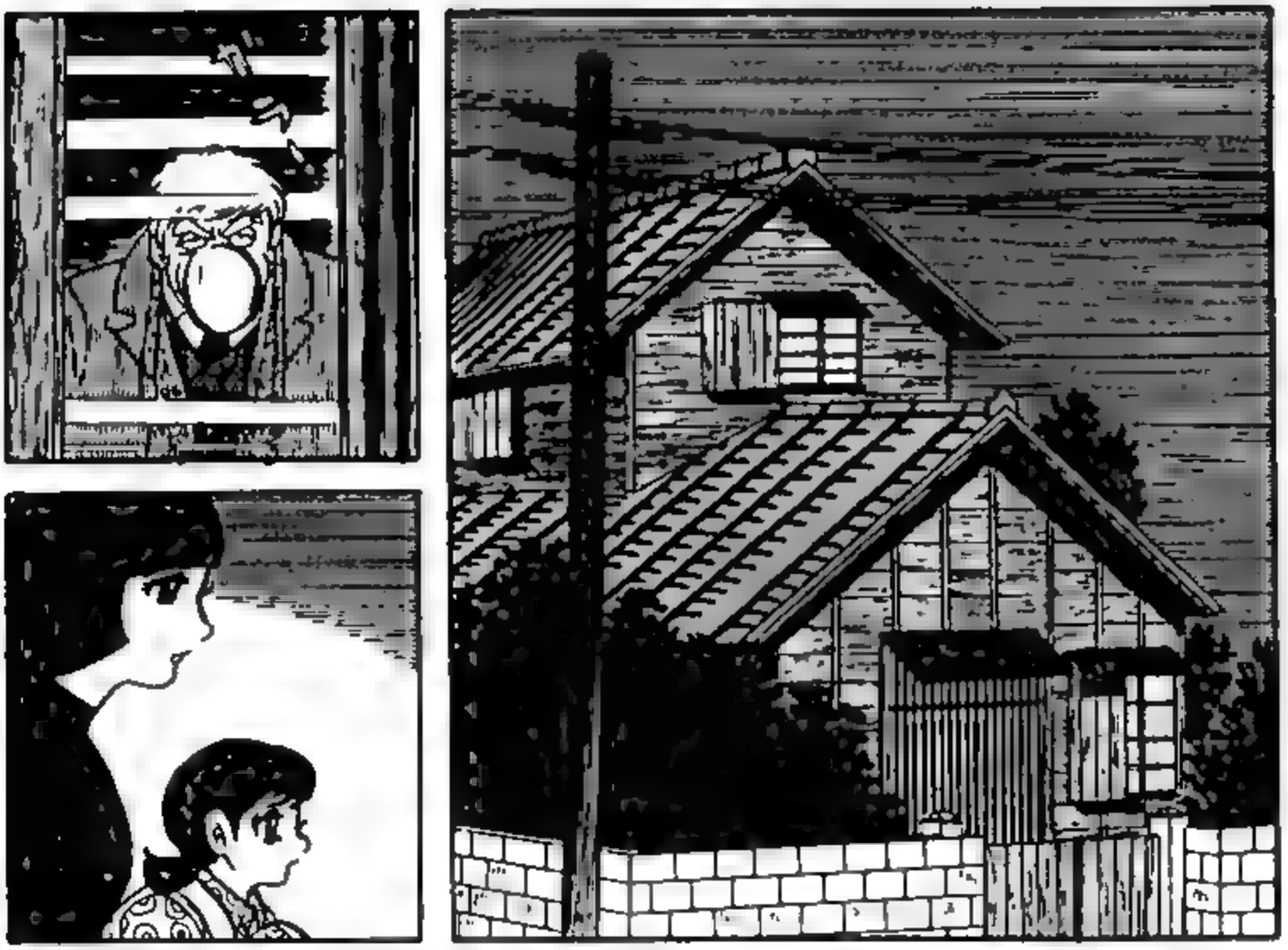
NOW THAT I KNOW ABOUT THIS...

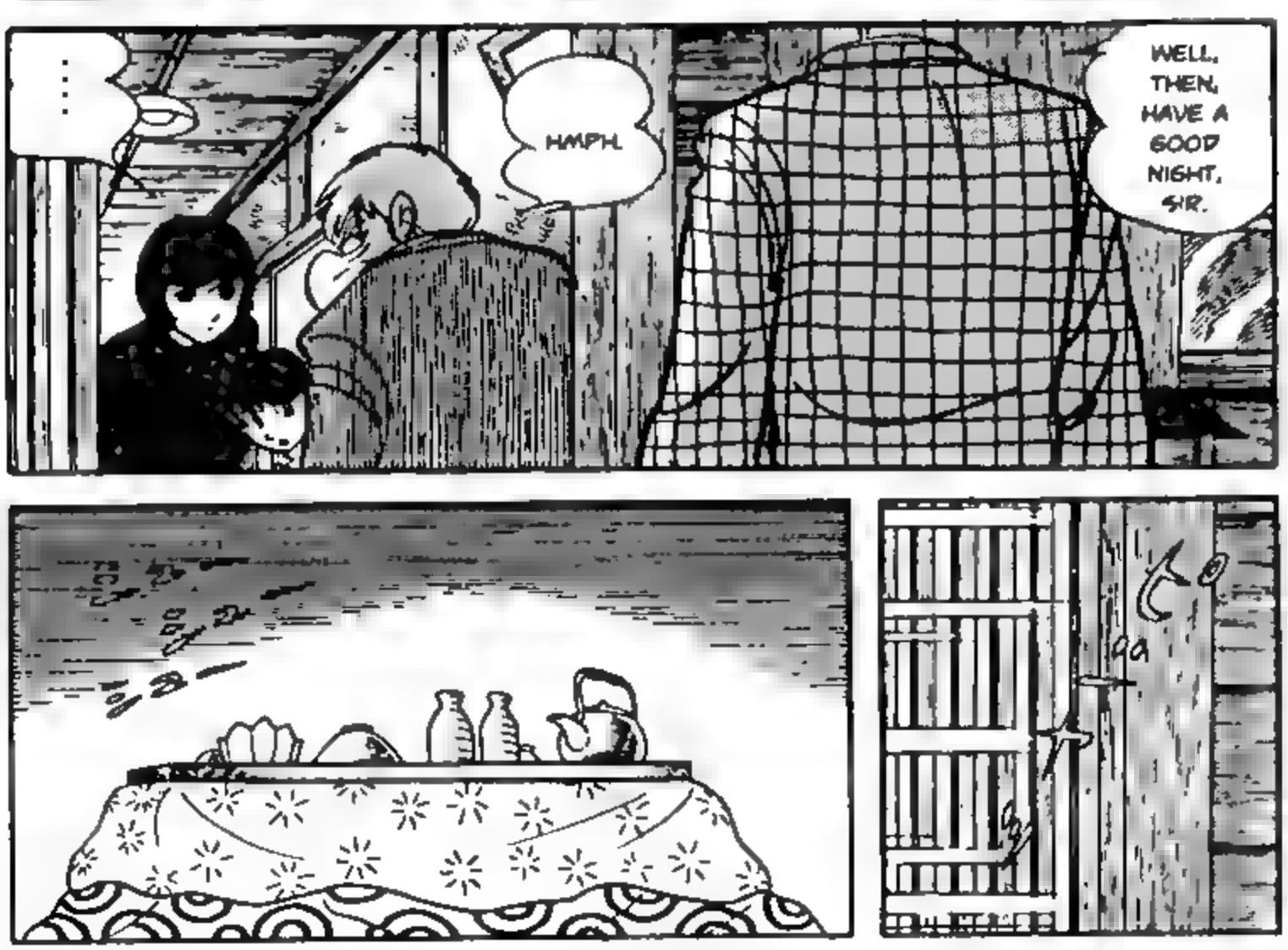
BUT NOW, EVERY-THING'S DIFFER-ENT.

I'LL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH HIM... UNTIL I FIND OUT HIS TRUE GOAL!!

I WON'T ASK YOU TO GIVE ME A NEW PARTNER!

UNTIL I FIND SOLID EVIDENCE... UNTIL I'VE GRABBED HIM BY HIS TAIL!!




.....
HMPH.
WELL, THEN, HAVE A GOOD NIGHT, SIR.

...
FATHER...

FATHER, DO YOU... DO YOU STILL HATE THAT MAN SO MUCH...?

WHAT'S UP?

HMM?

I'D GO AS FAR TO SAY I DESPISE HIM!

THAT'S RIGHT!

I DO... I HATE THAT HUNK OF JUNK!!

SO YES!!

HOW... HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?! HE'S NOT A MAN, HE'S A MACHINE!!

TO MAKE A ROBOT THAT CAN SOLVE CRIMES AS A ROBOT DETECTIVE? THAT WE'RE LIVING IN AN AGE WHERE SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAN HAPPEN?

ISN'T IT A WONDERFUL THING THAT PEOPLE HAVE THE POWER TO DO THIS?

BUT WHY, FATHER?

EVERY TIME I LOOK AT THAT EXPRESSIONLESS BLACK-AND-BLUE FACE, I GET GOOSEBUMPS ALL OVER!!

FATHER... SO YOU HATE MACHINES THAT MUCH...

SAKE! BRING ME ANOTHER BOTTLE OF SAKE!!

RRR-RGH...

THAT HIDEOUS PILE OF SPRINGS IS AS FAR FROM WONDERFUL AS YOU CAN GET!!

F-F-FAR FROM IT!!

WHA... WHAT DID YOU-?! "WONDER-FUL"?!

SNIFF

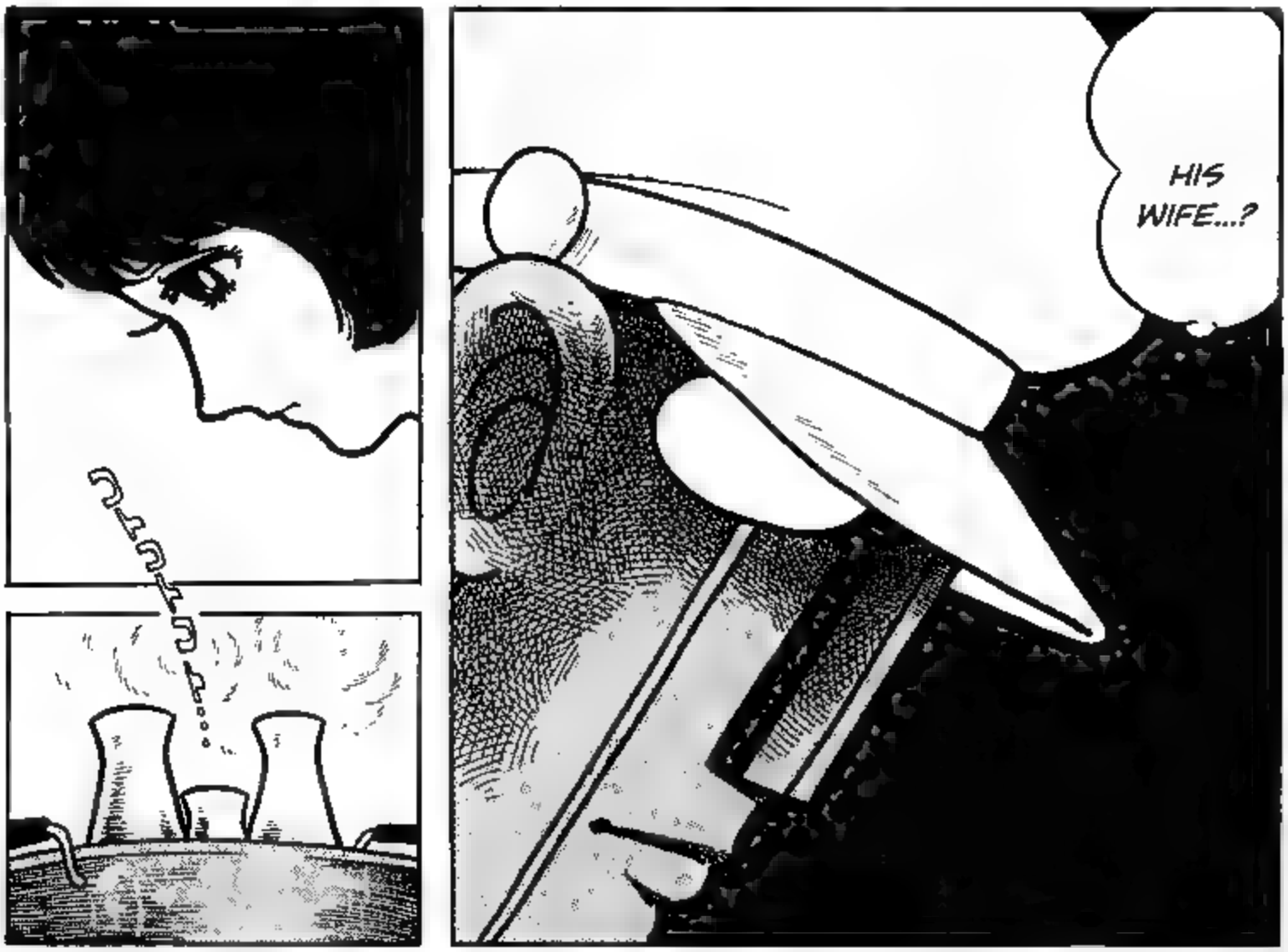
KGH... EVERY LAST ONE OF THOSE THINGS...!!

DO... DON'T BRING YOUR MOTHER INTO THIS!!!

SH-!!

SHAD-DUP!!

IS IT BECAUSE MOTHER DIED IN A CAR CRASH...?


HIS WIFE...?

EVERYTHING'S FINE, YOU GO BACK TO BED. WHAT WILL WE DO IF YOUR COLD GETS WORSE?
...I STILL AM!
DID YOU TALK TO HIM YET...?
HEY... HEY, SIS...
SO, UM... FATHER...
THIS IS SOMETHING YUMI WAS ASKING ME ABOUT BEFORE...

EVERY DAY, YOU GO OUT WITH THAT MAN TO DO YOUR JOB, AND EVERY DAY YOU SEEM TO HATE DOING IT!

WITH THAT PERSON OUTSIDE...?!

BETTER FRIENDS...

BE-COMING...

BUT WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER...

IT'S JUST SO HEART-BREAKING FOR US TO WATCH!

EVEN THOUGH I... STILL THINK HE'S A BIT SCARY...

SO THAT'S WHY... WE'D LIKE IT...

PLEASE, LET HIM INSIDE THE HOUSE!

BUT WE'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE HIM A ROOM!

I WON'T ALLOW IT!

THE TWO OF YOU... ARE YOU GOING AGAINST ME?! ARE YOU DEFYING ME?!?!

WHA-AAT?!

WHAT DID YOU-?!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF HIS BODY IS MADE OF METAL...

THE WHOLE HOUSE WILL REEK OF MOTOR OIL!!

I-IF WE BRING THAT CLUNKING HEAP OF METAL INDOORS...

I WON'T ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN!!

AND SLEEP IN A CAR, IS JUST...!

AND FOR A HUMAN BEING TO HAVE TO STAY OUTSIDE IN THE DEAD OF WINTER...

IF HE'S A ROBOT WITH THAT MUCH ABILITY... WHO'S ABLE TO THINK ON HIS OWN... THEN WHO'S TO SAY HE ISN'T A HUMAN BEING...?

I DON'T THINK HE'S SCARY OR BAD AT ALL!

IF YOU WANNA HEAR MY OPINION...

I THINK IT'S AWESOME THAT WE'VE GOT A ROBOT!

...OKAY...

IT'S SO PITIFUL!!

YEAH, YEAH! DOING THAT IS JUST TOO MUCH! IT'S CRUEL!!

[SFX] ATCHOO.

LITTLE GIRLS SHOULDN'T BE UP THIS LATE!

HURRY UP AND GO TO SLEEP, ALREADY!!

I'M NOT LITTLE...

..WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE, LIKE THAT?!

PEH! ROBOTS CAN SLEEP ANYWHERE. THEY DON'T EVEN FEEL COLD!

HAVING TO SLEEP IN A COLD, DARK CAR IS SO PITIFUL... HUH?

HEH...

H... HEHE...

...

YOU'RE GOING TO CALL US EMOTIONAL... BUT YOU'RE DRIVEN MORE BY YOUR EMOTIONS RIGHT NOW THAN WE ARE!

YOU ALWAYS PUT YOUR EMOTIONS FIRST, BEFORE CONSIDERING REASON AT ALL! ...HEH.

HAH! I BET IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE BOTH WOMEN...

PITIFUL... IS IT?

...ISN'T BECAUSE HE'S A MACHINE... IT'S... IT'S JUST...!

THE REASON... I DESPISE HIM AS MUCH AS I DO..

AND... AND THE REASON I HATE HIM SO MUCH..

...NO!!

THAT... YOU'RE WRONG! I WAS JUST... FULFILLING A MAN'S DUTY!!

IT'S A MAN'S JOB TO OPPOSE ANYONE WHO TRIES TO CHALLENGE HIS AUTHORITY!!

I'M SO SORRY, FATHER!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO COME ACROSS AS CONCEITED..

I... I'M SORRY!

GGH...

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BRING HIM INSIDE THE HOUSE? THEN GO DO IT!

...OKAY. I UNDER-STAND. YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE.

WAHOO!

WAY TO GO, DAD!

FATHER... ARE YOU SURE...?

GO ON, LET HIM IN.

YEAH.

I'LL BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT HIS TRUE GOALS AND INTENTIONS ALL THE MORE QUICKLY!

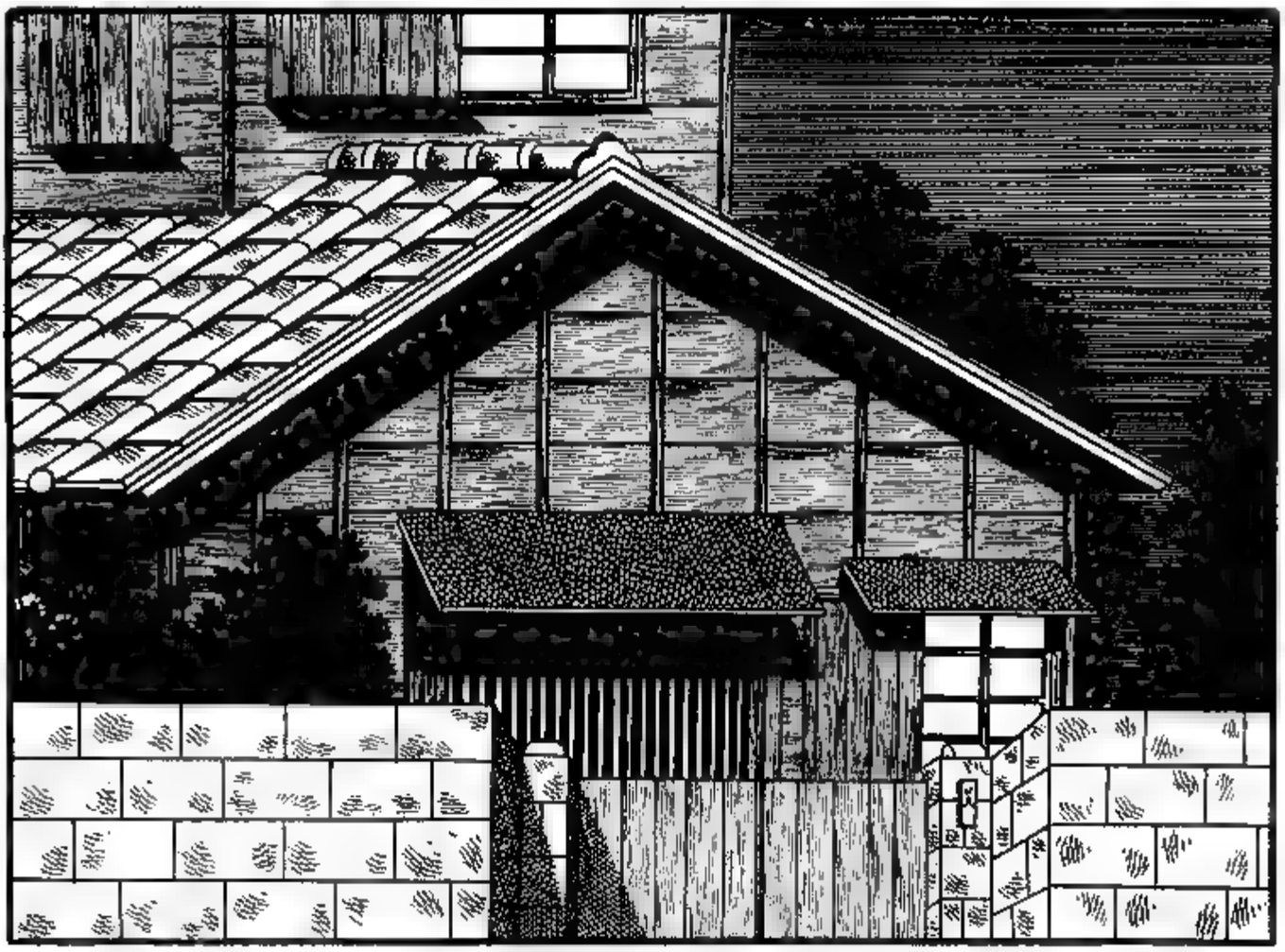
BY BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM CONSTANTLY ...

AND WE LIVE TO-GETHER, THEN...

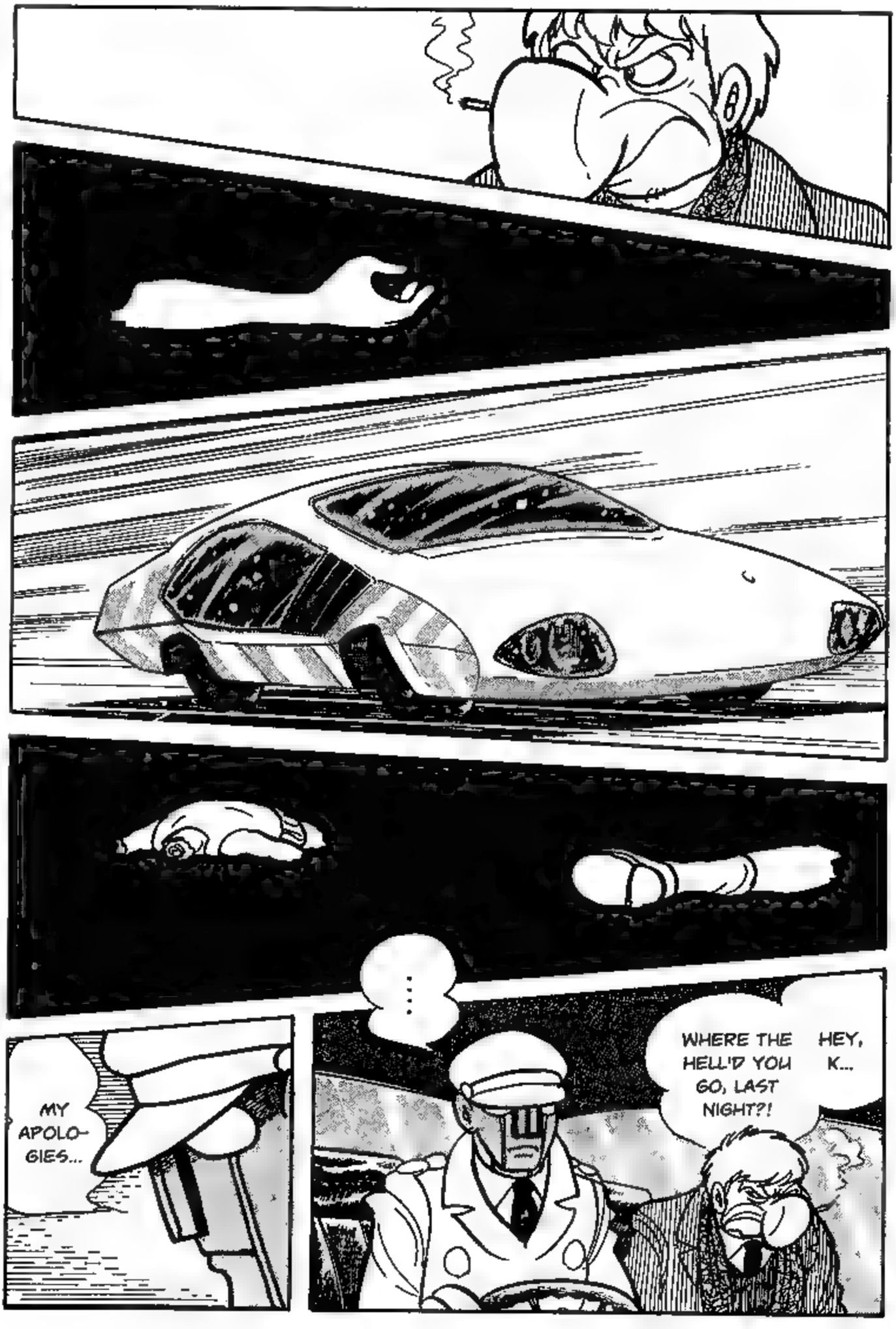
IF I LET HIM INSIDE...

GO AHEAD.

WHAT'S WRONG?
HMM?
FATHER!!
.....
HE'S GONE! HE ISN'T ANYWHERE!!
WHAAAAT?!
COME TO THINK OF IT... HE DOES HAVE THOSE SUPERHUMAN EARS THAT CAN HEAR FROM FAR AWAY...!
DID HE SENSE WHAT I WAS THINKING OF DOING...?!
LOOKS... LIKE HE'S FLOWN THE COOP!



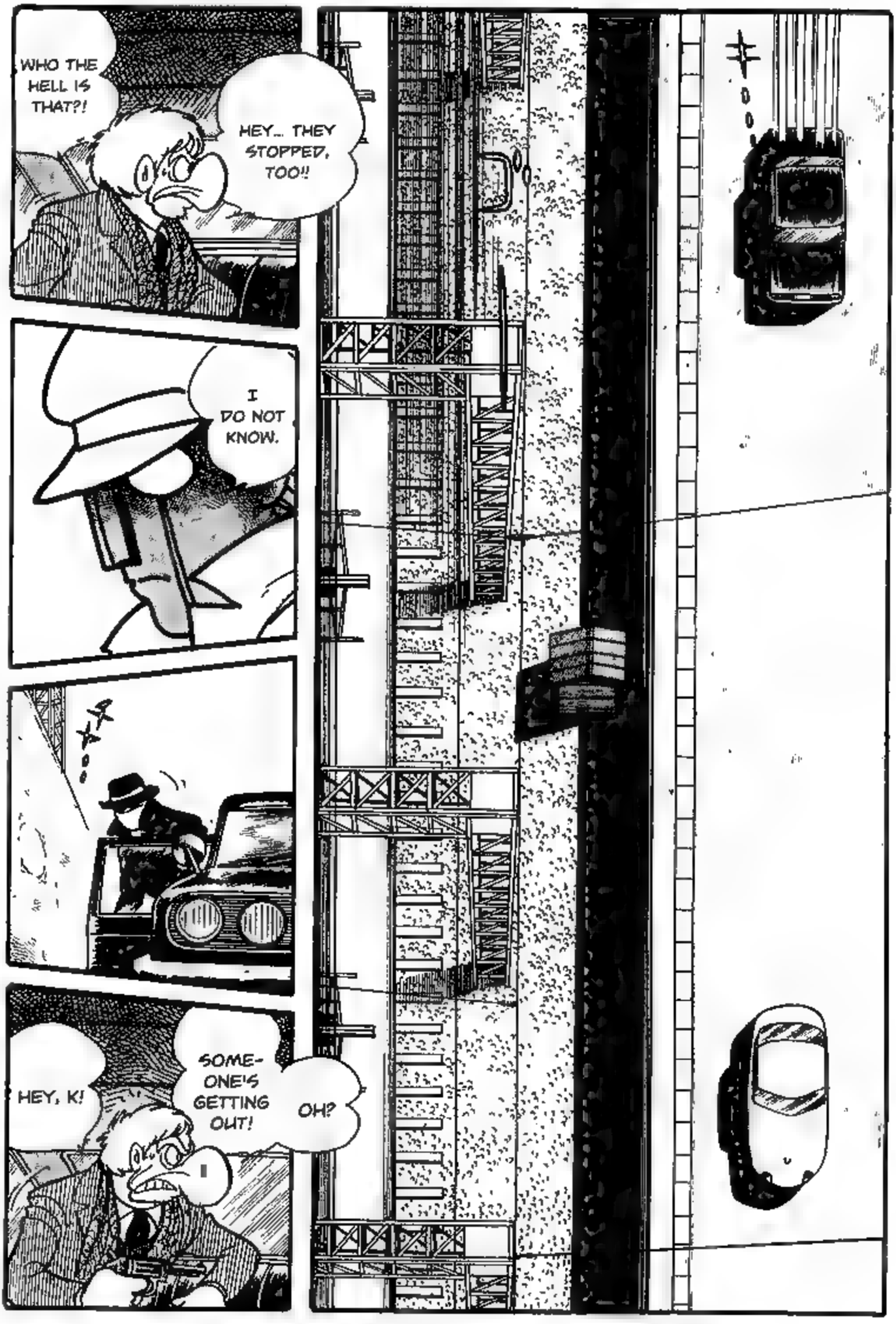
NO... THAT MAN, HE...
HE'S COME BACK?!
IS... IS IT MORNING ALREADY ?!
HMM?!
FATHER ...!
HE WANTS YOU TO GO WITH HIM AND INVESTIGATE, AS SOON AS YOU CAN!
HE SAID THERE'S A CASE!
YES, BUT...


MY APOLO-GIES...
WHERE THE HELL'D YOU GO, LAST NIGHT?!
HEY, K...

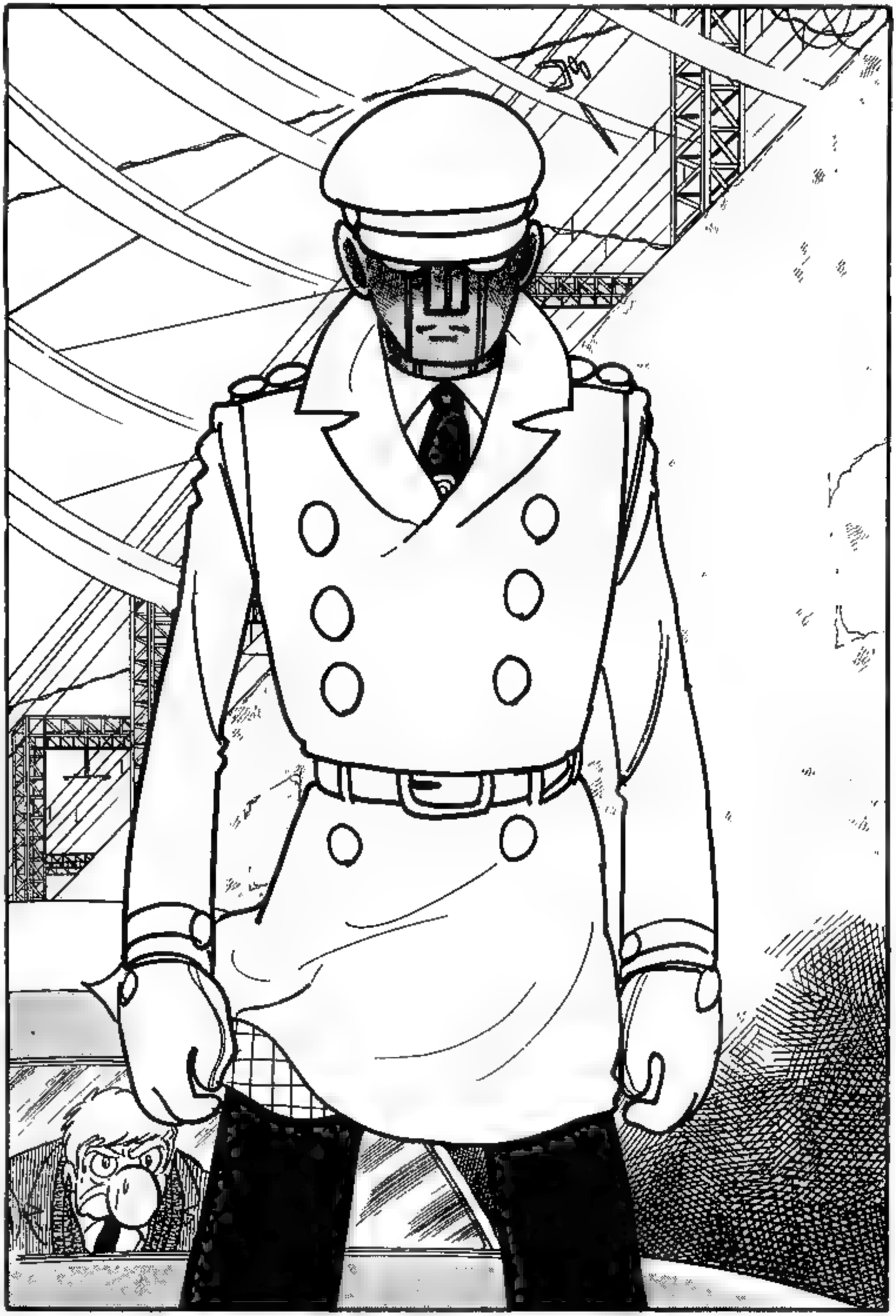
....
HUH?!
OH-...
I WENT OUT TO MEET WITH MY MOTHER.
TWO POLICEMEN WHO WERE OUT ON PATROL!
THEIR BODY PARTS WERE THROWN NEARLY 20 METERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS!!
WHO'D THEY SAY WAS KILLED?
WHAT A RUTHLESS MURDER!!
LOOK AT THIS MESS!
THIS IS A TREMENDOUSLY UNUSUAL CASE!
WHAT KIND OF SICK BRUTE WOULD DO THIS...?!

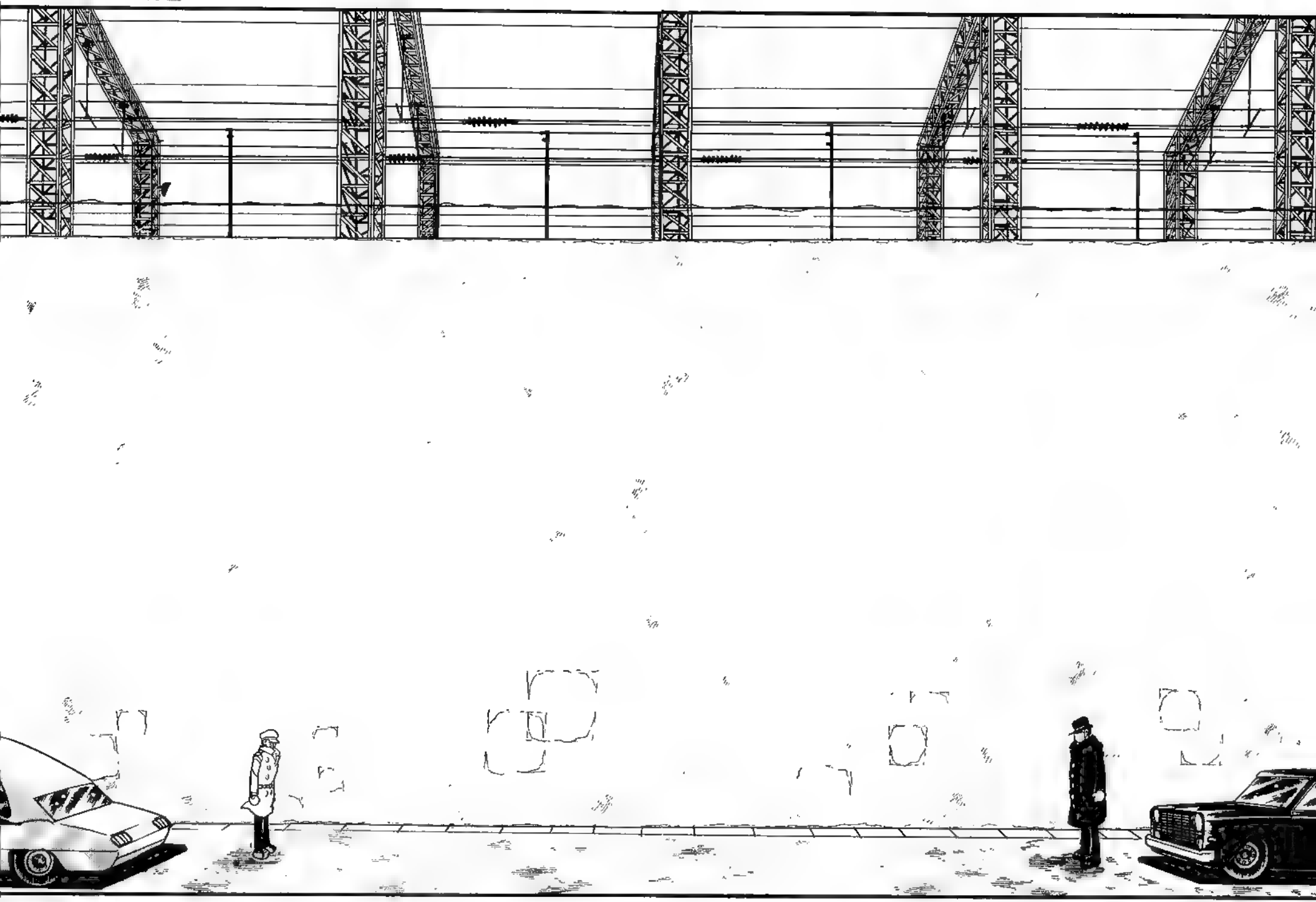
..WHAT'S THAT?
WITH UNUSUAL STRENGTH, THEN...
IF IT CAN'T JUST BE SOME-ONE...
IT'D HAVE TO BE SOME-ONE TAKING STEROIDS ...
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S NO WAY AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING THIS BRUTAL!
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMETHING WITH NO FREE WILL...
A ROBOT IS THE CULPRIT, HERE!
HUH?!
IF IT CAN'T BE, THEN WHAT?!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THAT, AS WELL!!
...YES!
YES, THAT'S... THAT'S RIGHT!

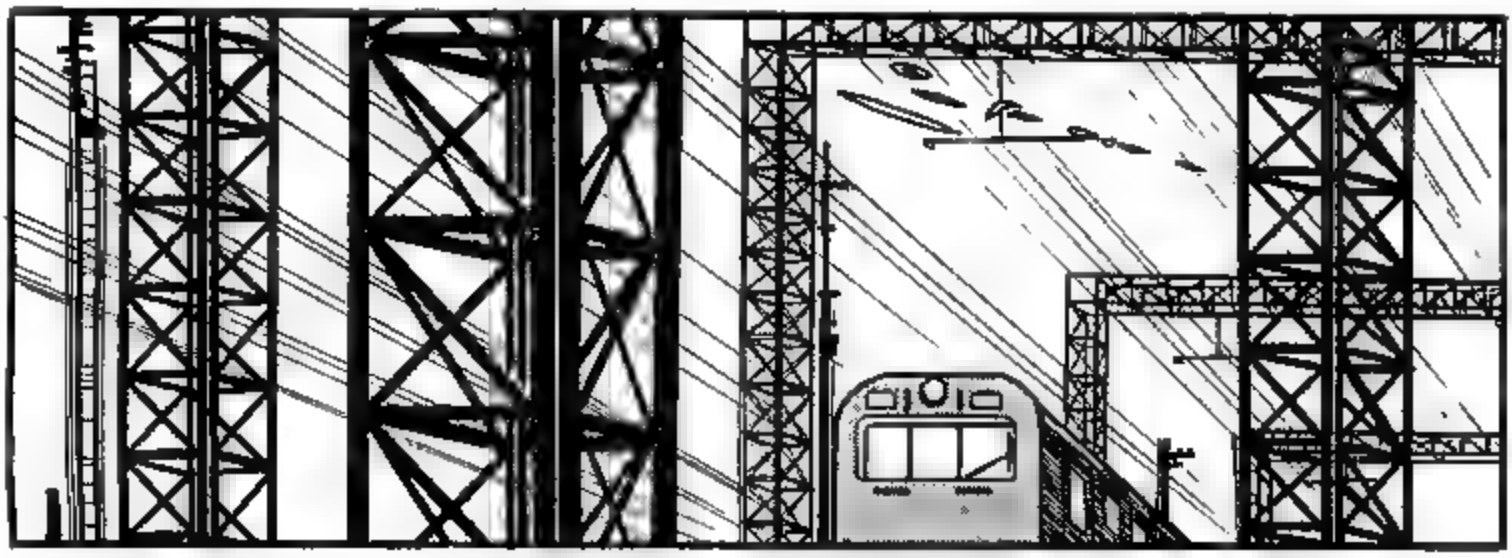
HEH... HEHE HE!
EVEN WITH ALL THOSE FORENSIC MACHINES, NONE OF THOSE INVESTIGATORS COULD MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF THE CRIME SCENE!
I COULDN'T SAY FOR CERTAIN IF IT WAS MERELY AN IMPULSIVE HIT-AND-RUN CRIME OR NOT.
HMM?
YES...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT...
WHAT?!
A CAR HAS BEEN FOLLOWING US FOR QUITE SOME TIME, NOW
WHAT'S THIS? WHY'RE YOU STOPPING?

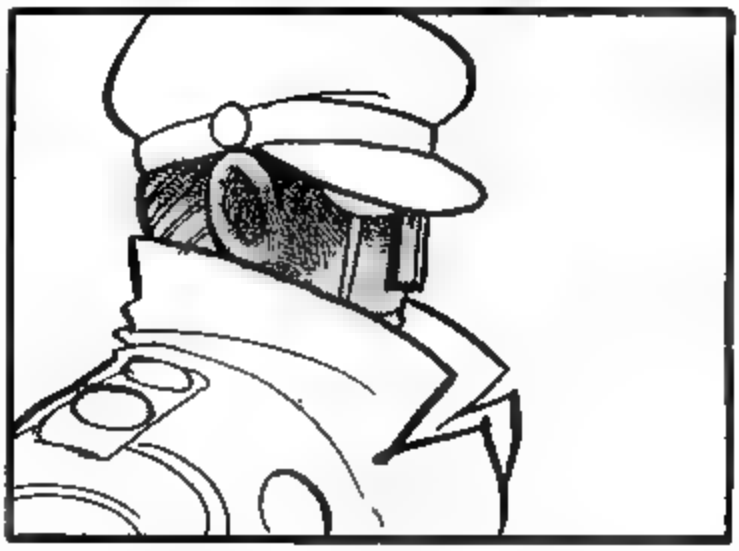

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?!
HEY... THEY STOPPED, TOO!!
I DO NOT KNOW.
HEY, K!
SOME-ONE'S GETTING OUT!
OH?

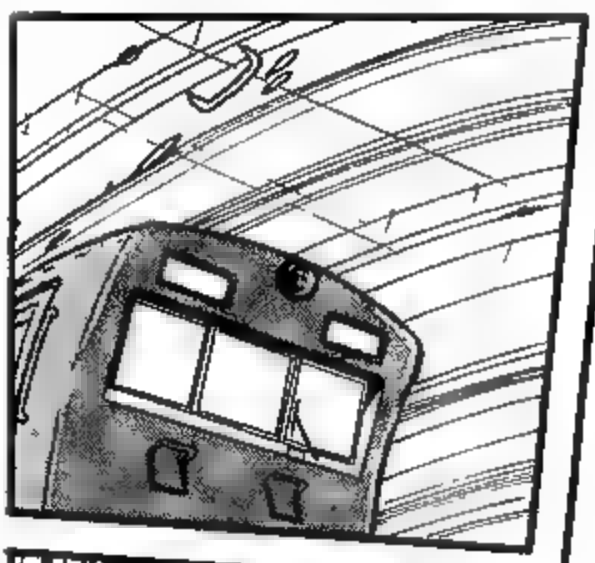
GGH ...?!
MR. SHIBA, I MUST ASK THAT YOU REMAIN IN THE CAR. THAT MAN IS DANGEROUS..
PLEASE DO NOT MOVE!
HE'S A ROBOT!

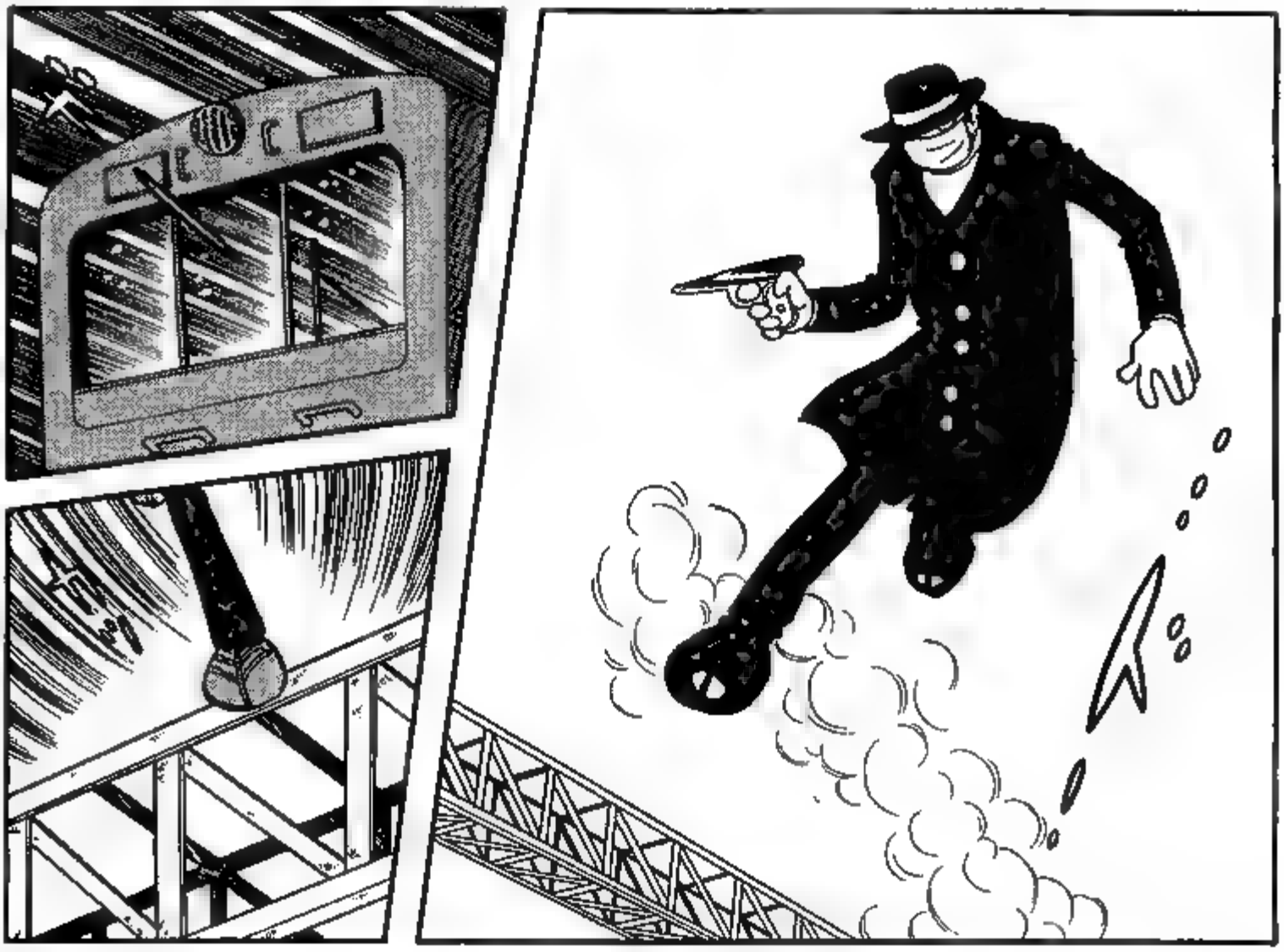


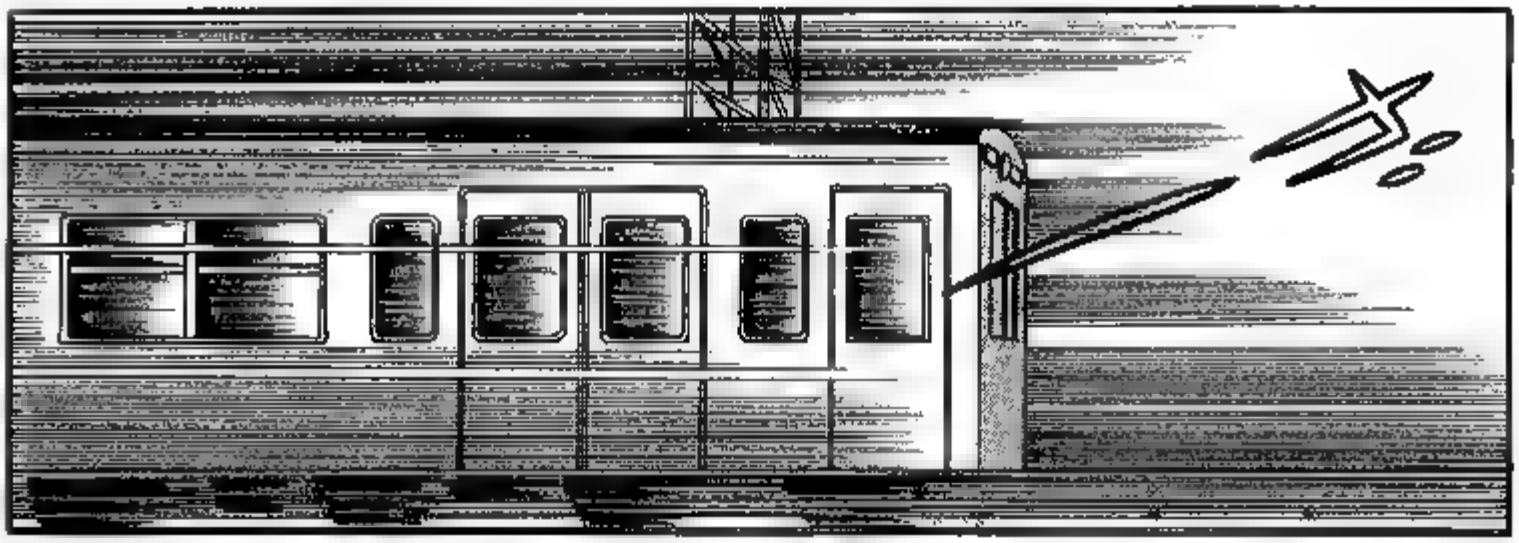


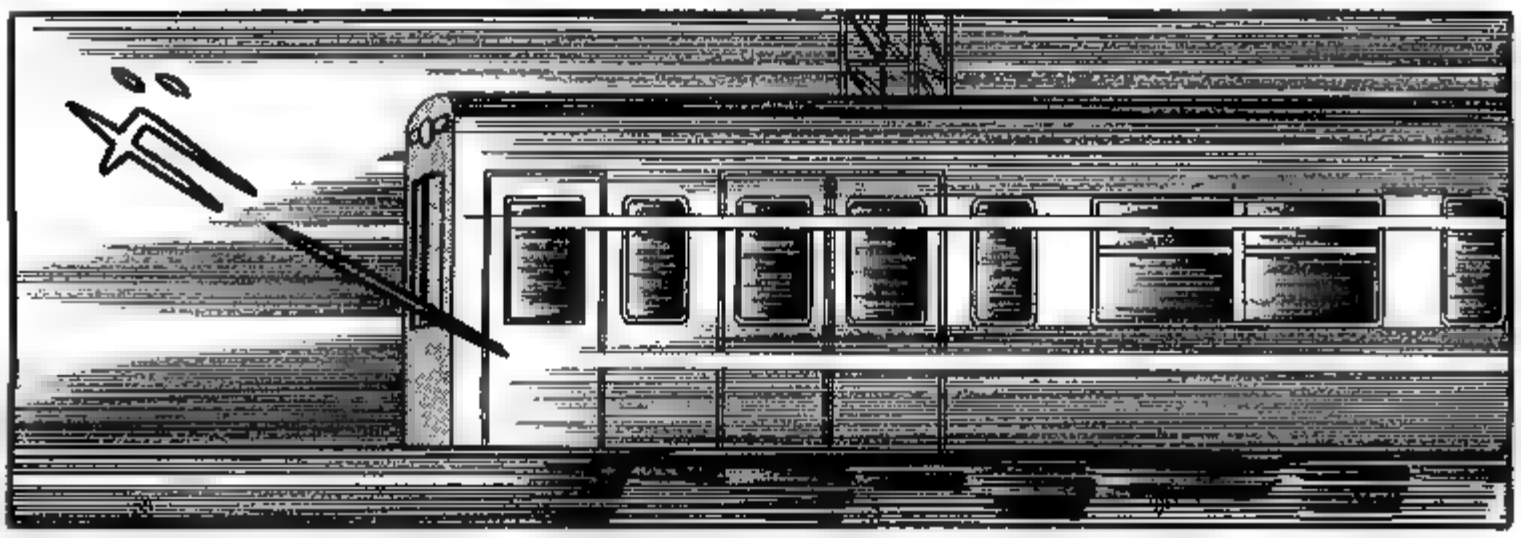


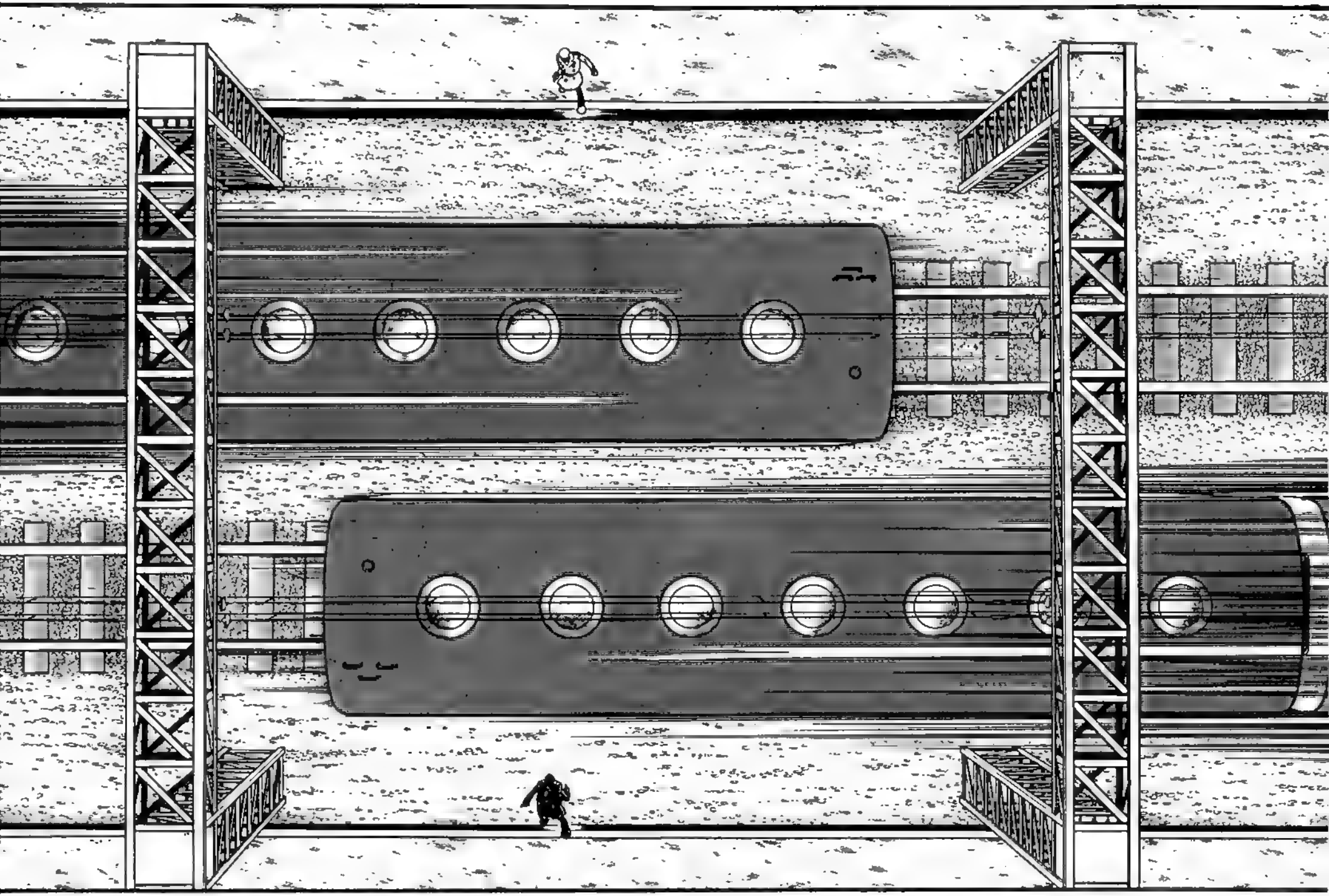


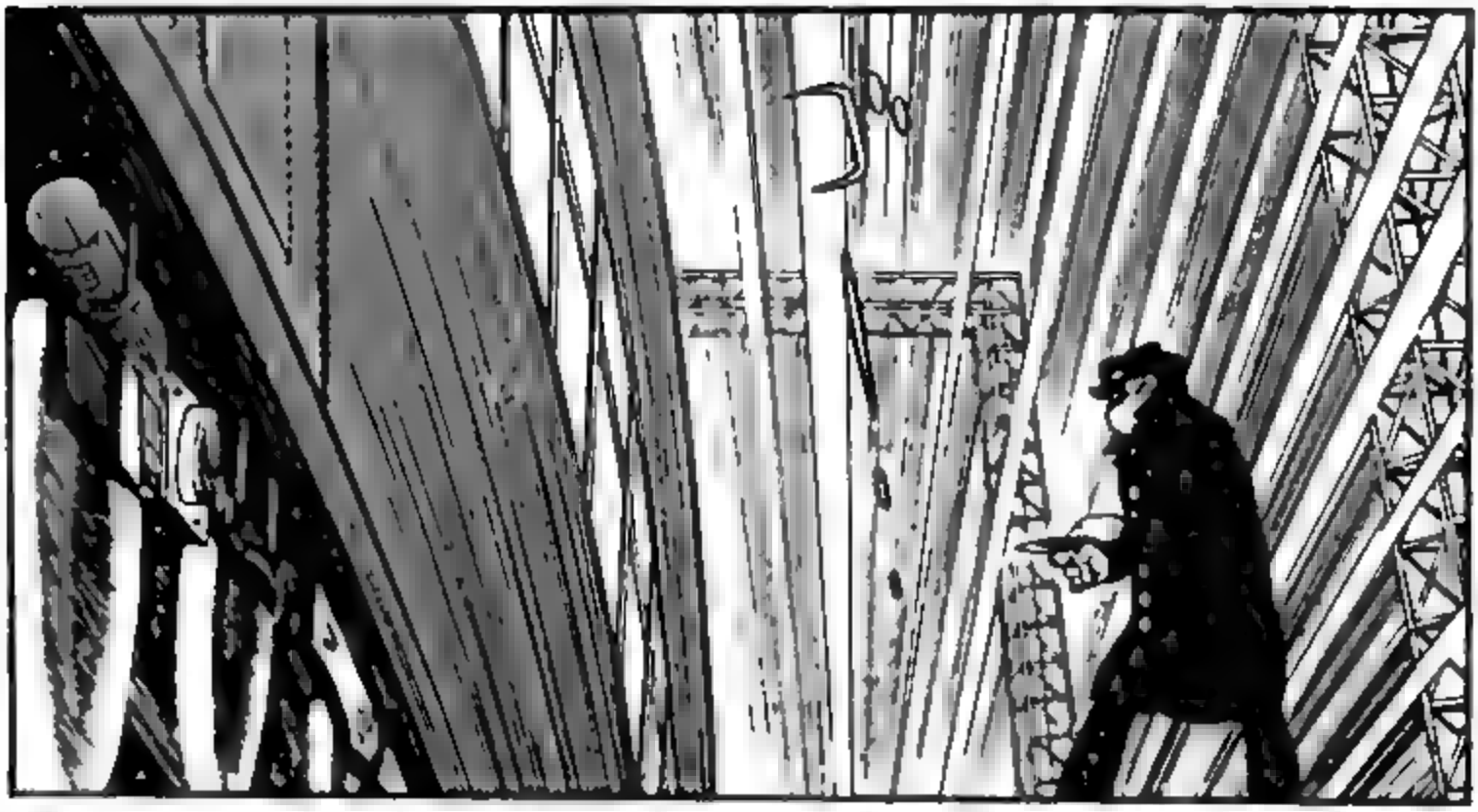


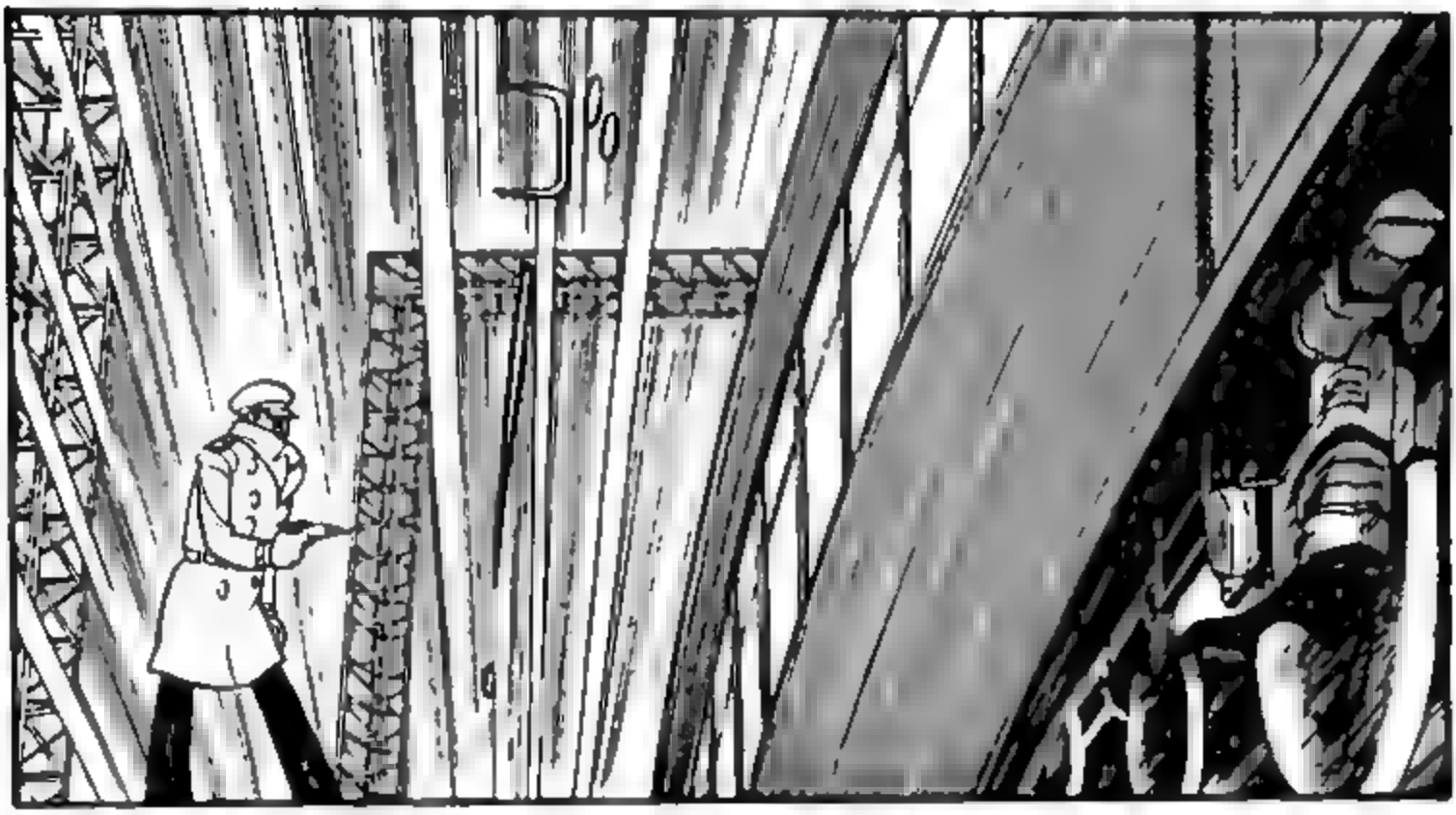


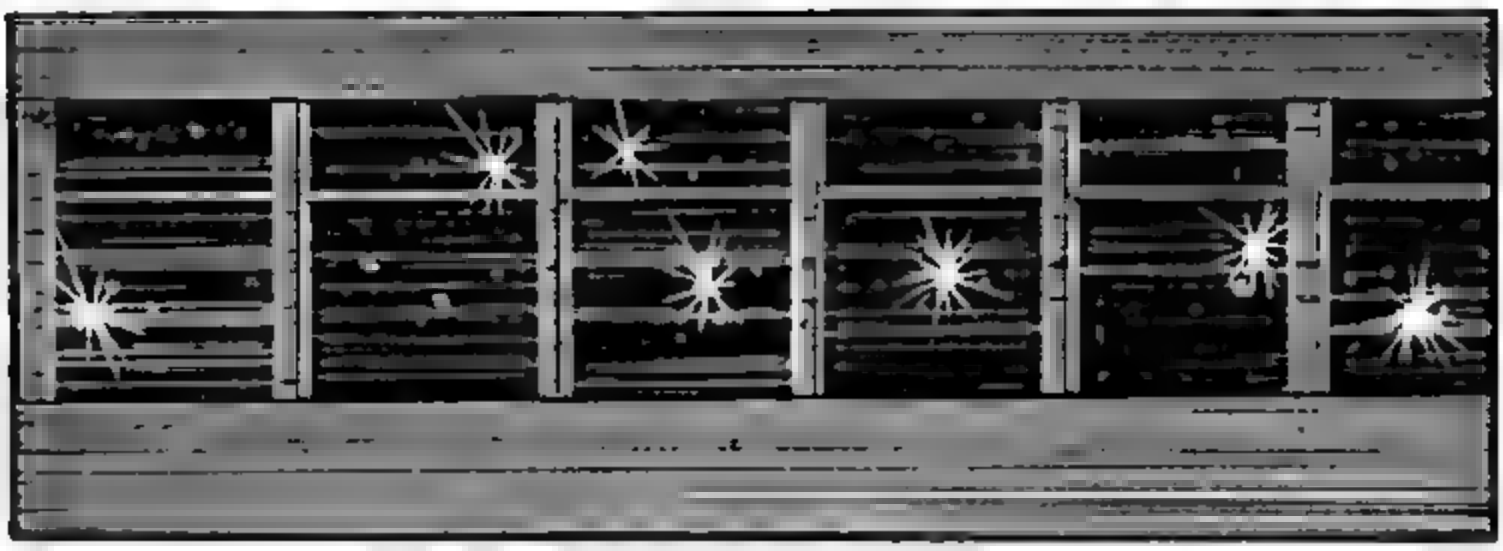


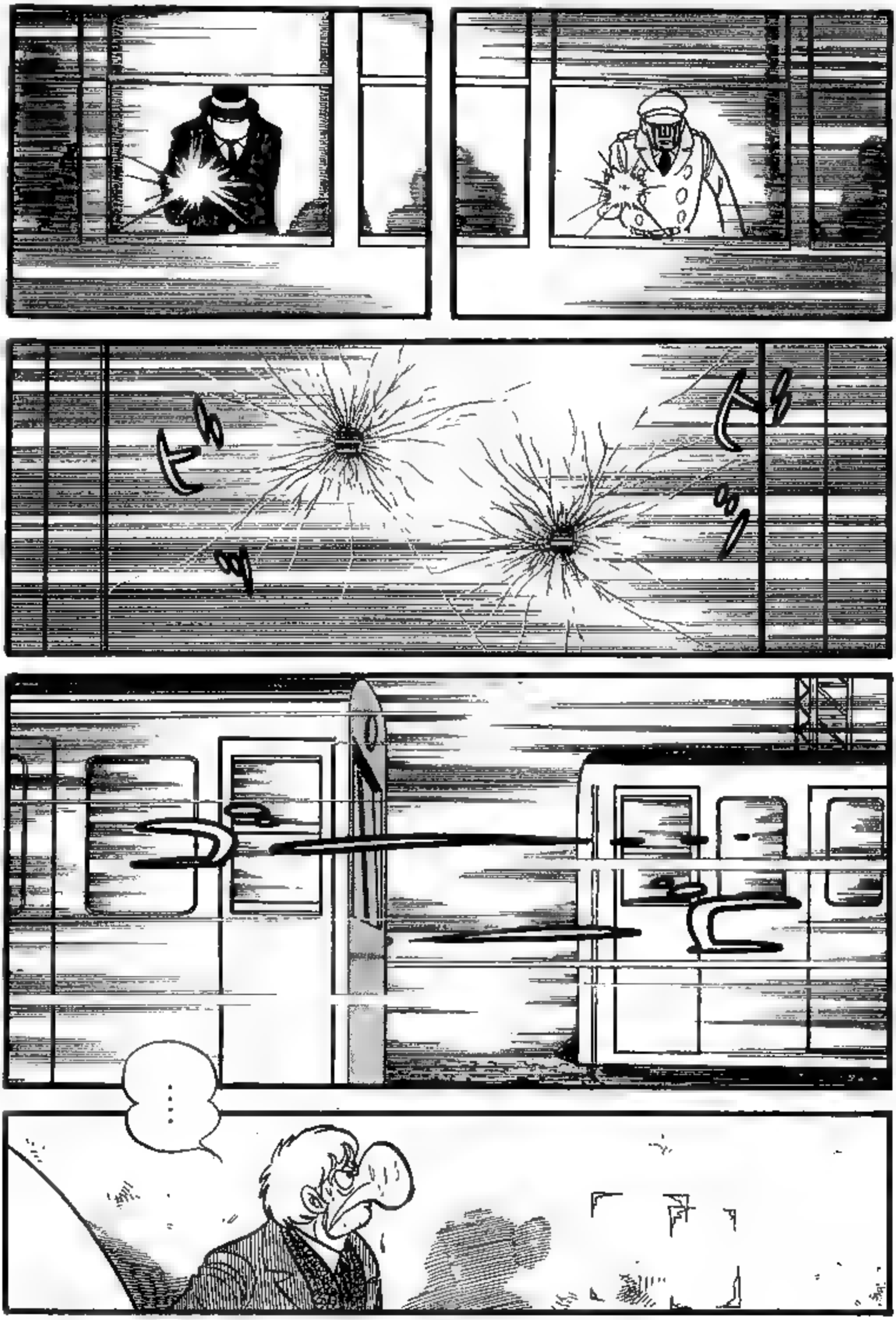


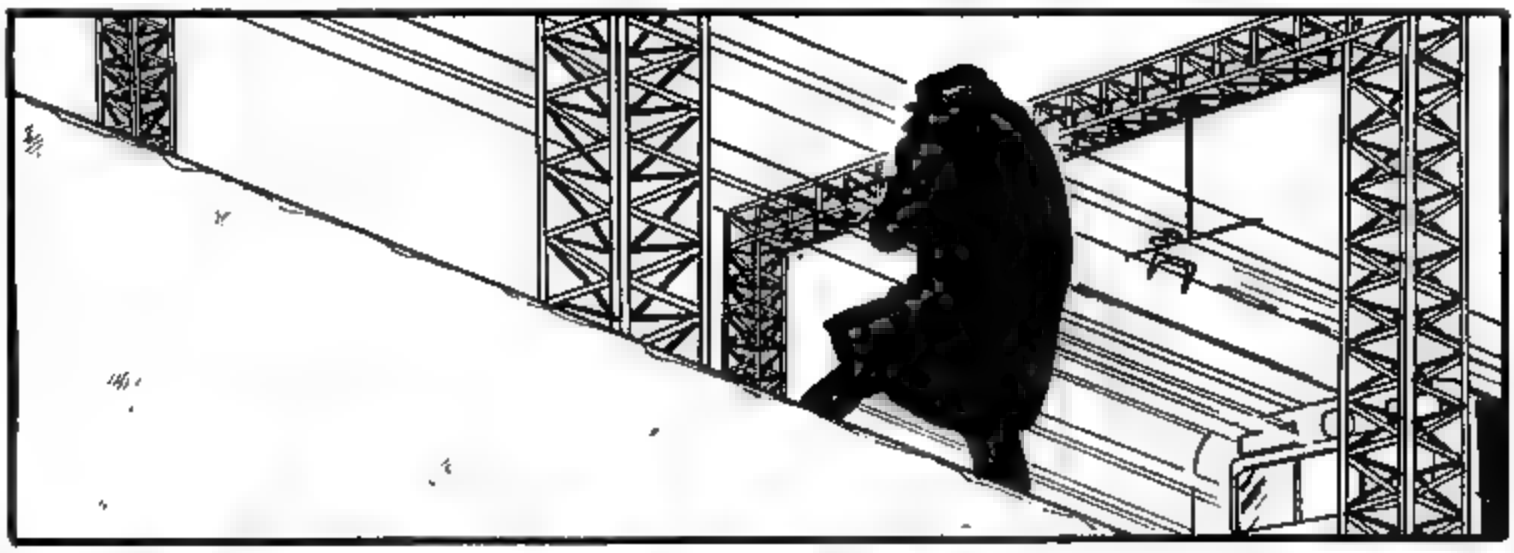


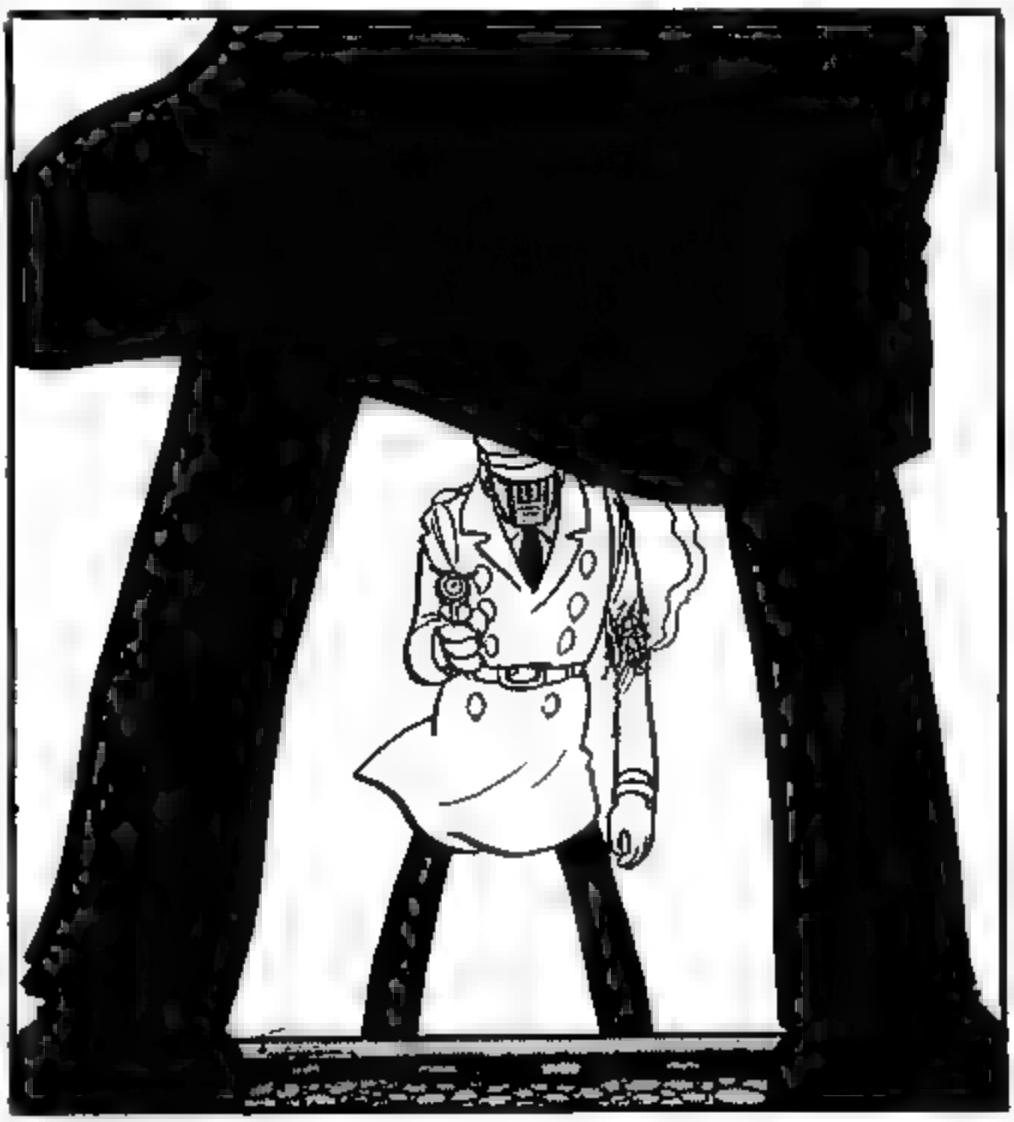


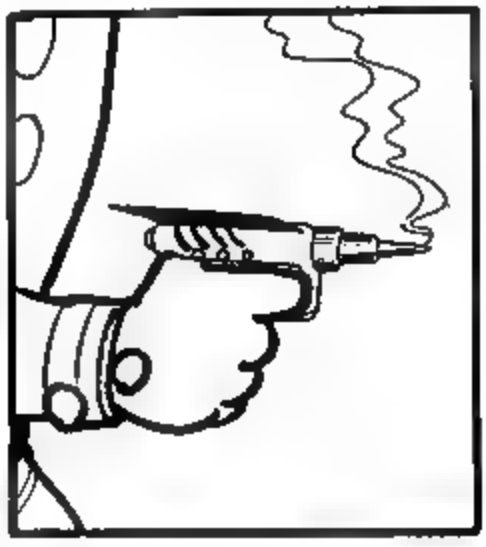


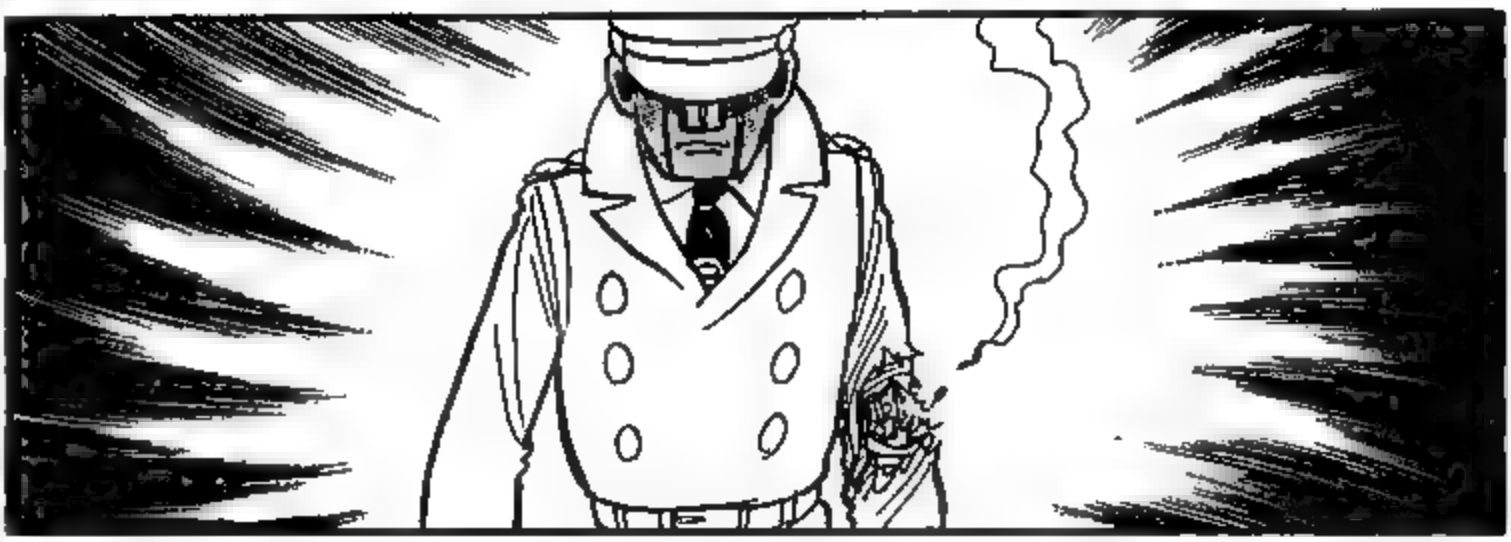



ドン
ドン
……

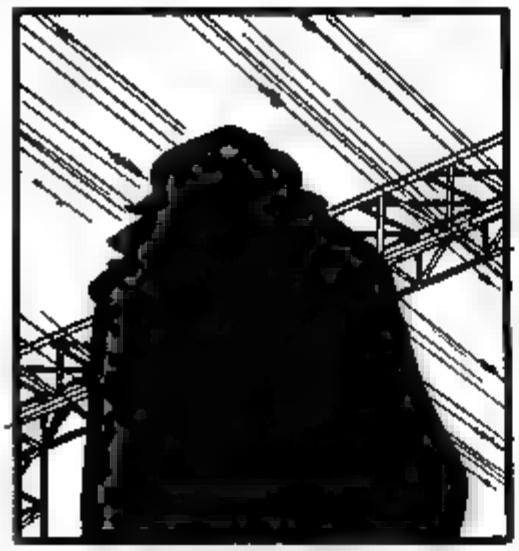


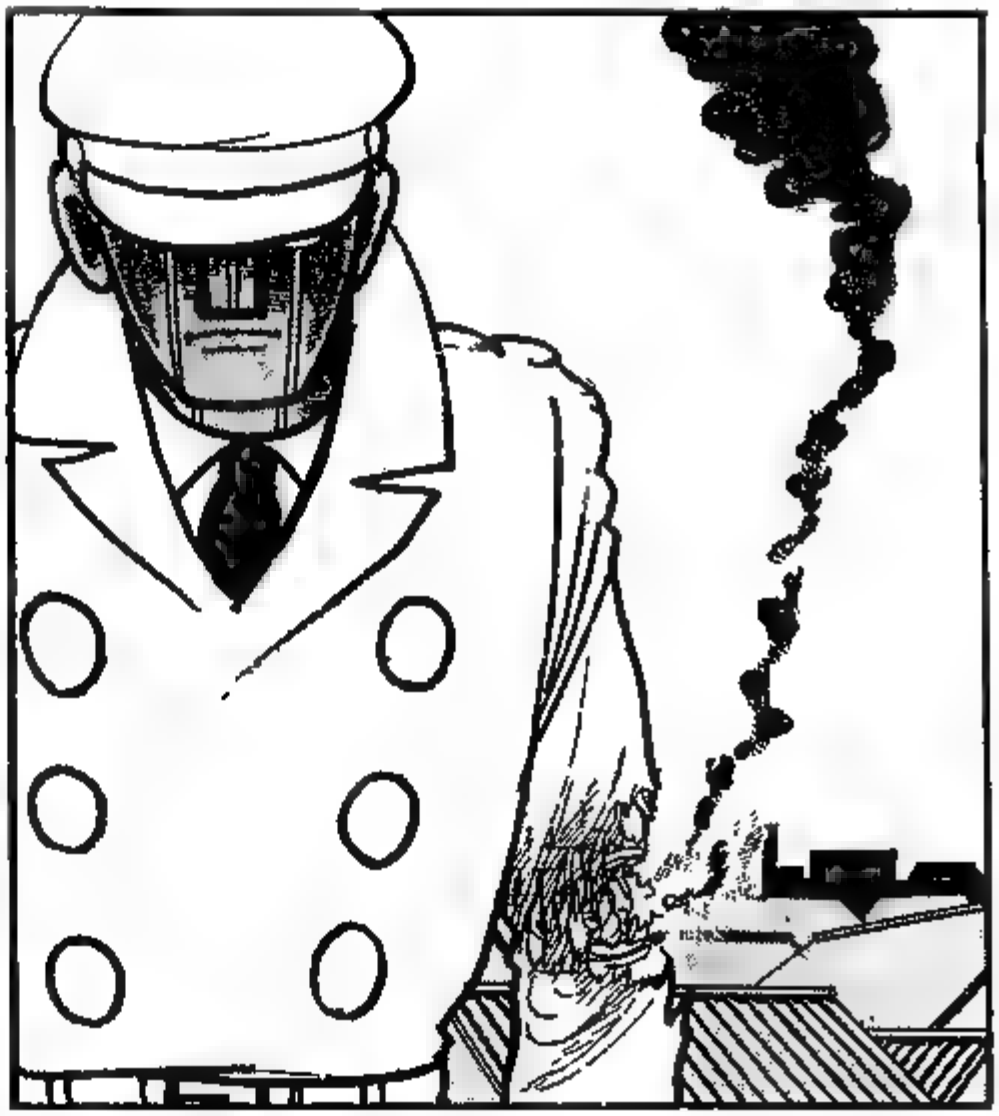


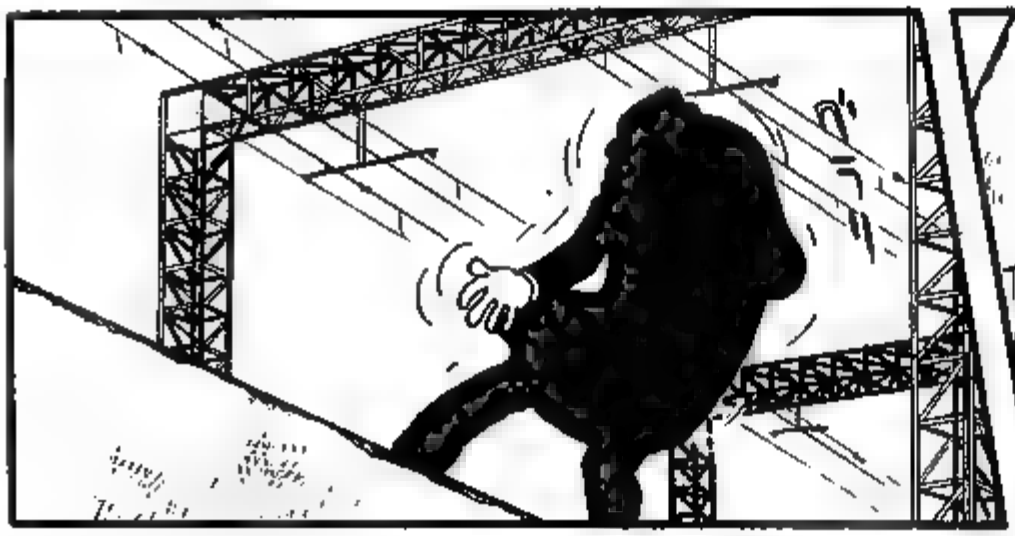




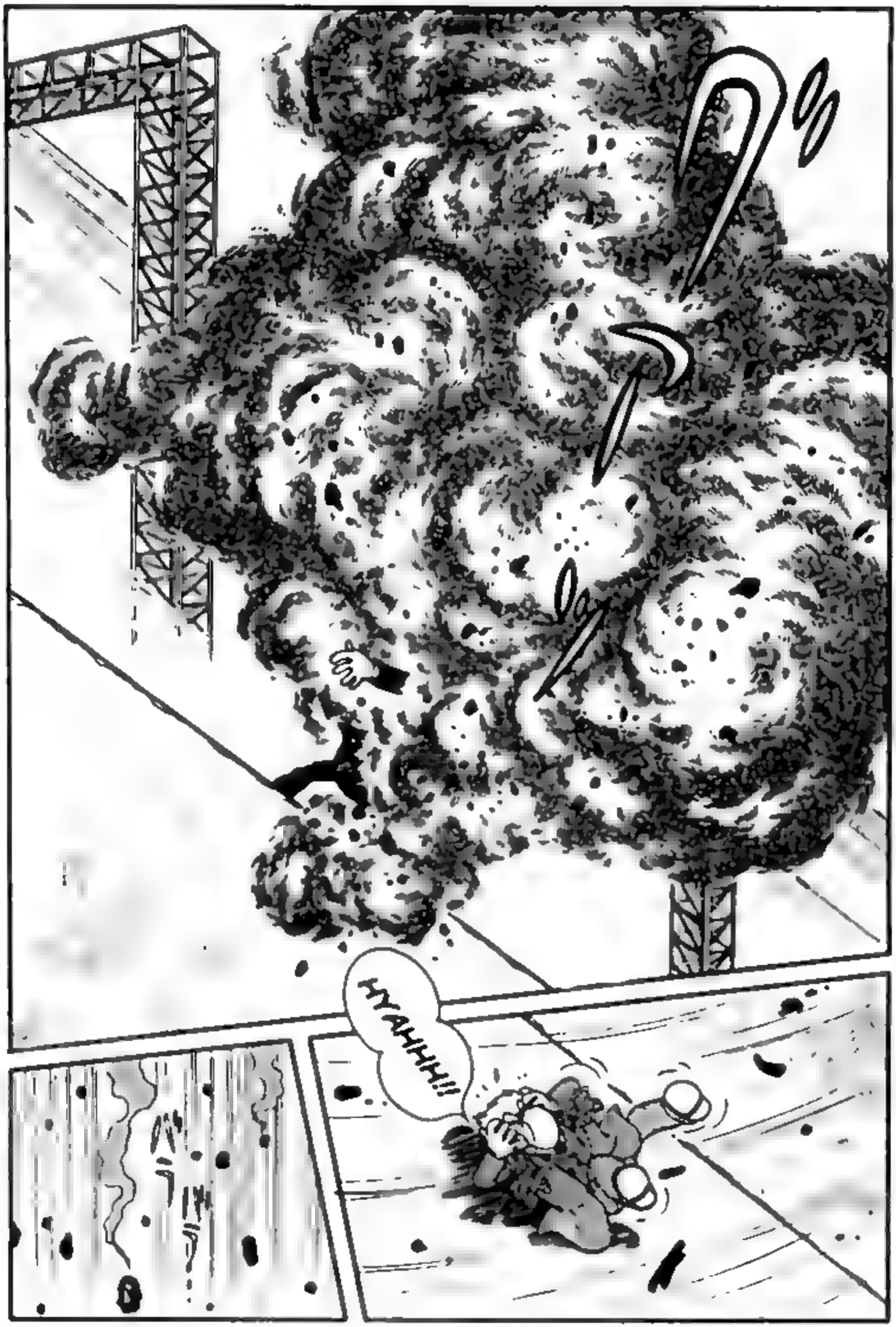
...K?!

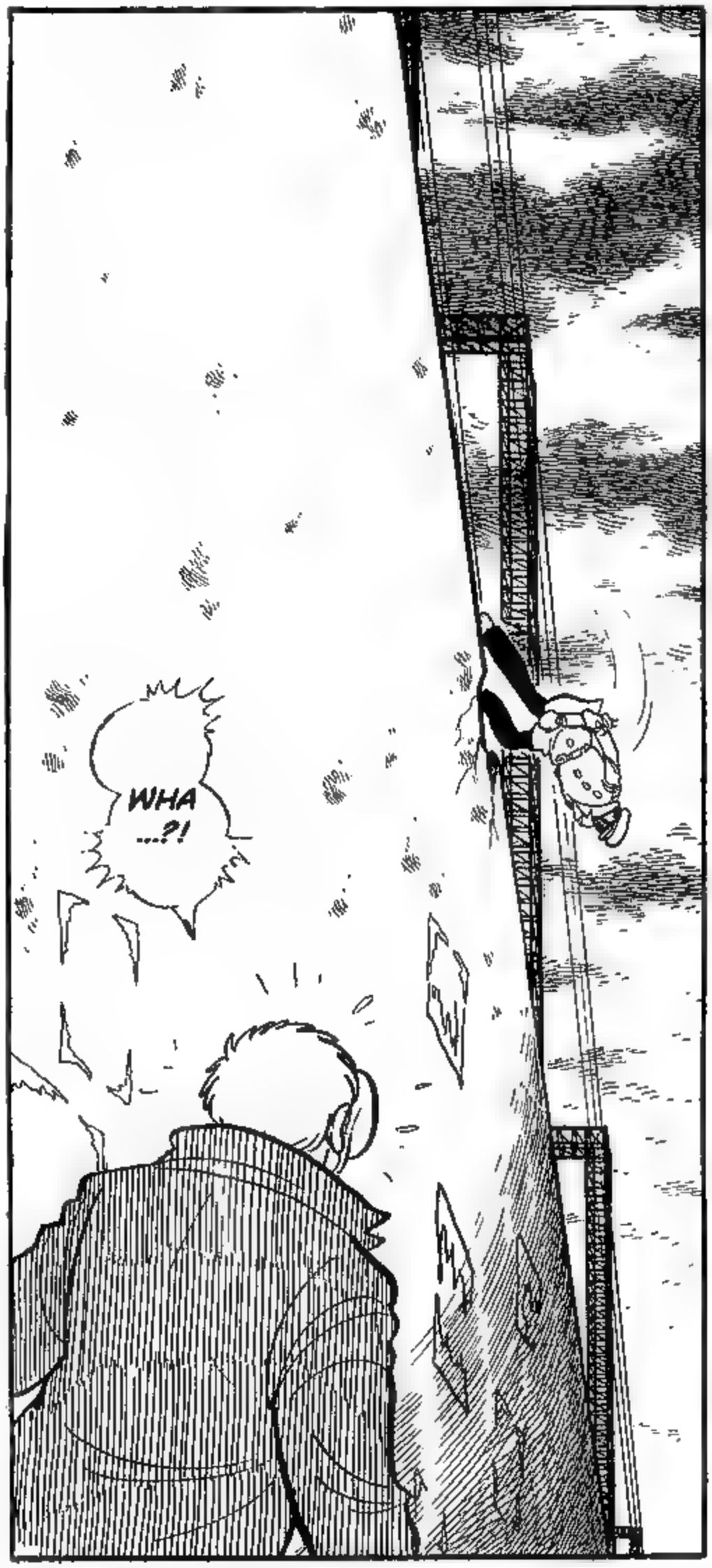




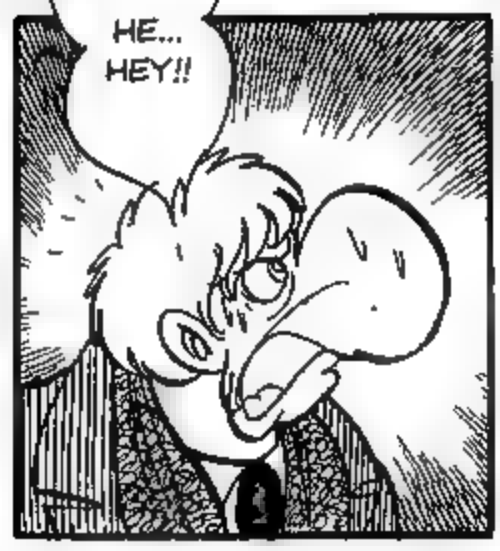


K?!?!


HYAHHH!!


WHA
...?!

RR-
GH..!


HE...
HEY!!

HE SELF-DE-STRUCTED.

TH

UH... UH, YOUR...

YOUR ARM...?!

ALL THE ROBOTS WE'RE FACING SEEM TO BE PROGRAMMED TO SELF-DESTRUCT...

IT WAS SHOT.

MR. SHIBA, I DO NOT HAVE AN EXPLANATION TO GIVE, BUT I AM GOING TO NEED SOME TIME OFF.

HUH?

WAIT!!

I'M GOING WITH YOU!!

YOUR MOTHER -?!

YOU CANNOT.

HEY... WAIT UP! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

TO SEE MY MOTHER

I MUST GET THIS ARM REPAIRED TO CONTINUE WORKING.

WHY CAN'T I GO WITH YOU, HUH?!

WHY CAN'T I MEET UP WITH THE WOMAN-... I MEAN, YOUR MOTHER?!

MM-!

WHY?!

HEY!!
YOU LITTLE... WAIT!!
I'M SORRY, BUT... PLEASE RETURN HOME ON YOUR OWN!
BUT FOR TODAY, AT LEAST...
I PROMISE THAT ONE DAY... YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MEET HER
EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU ROBOTS...
HAS CRAWLED OUT OF THE SAME HOLE!
RRR-RGHH...
SHIT!! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO!
THAT MUCH IS DECIDED!!
K! I'M ONTO YOU, AND ALL YOUR ROBOT FRIENDS, TOO!!
WAS JUST A TRICK TO GET US TO TRUST YOU MORE!!
HAVING YOUR ARM GET SHOT OFF...
T-THAT WOMAN... THIS "MOTHER" HAS GOT TO BE THE BOSS OF ALL THOSE CLOCKWORK DOLLS!!

NOW, PLEASE, COME ON IN!
... SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
WE'VE PREPARED A ROOM FOR YOU!

STOP RIGHT THERE!
WAIT A SEC!
...YES... THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
AND JUST LIKE LAST TIME, YOU WERE FAR AWAY FROM ME WHEN IT HAPPENED!!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO SAY?
DID YOU KNOW?
...OF COURSE YOU KNOW. IT'S OBVIOUS.
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER DIS-MEMBERMENT CASE, SINCE YOU LEFT!

YOU'RE THE CULPRIT BEHIND THE DISMEM-BERMENT CASES!!
...IS A POSSIBILITY RIGHT NOW.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SAY!!

FATHER!

HUH ?!

CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

HOW 'BOUT THAT?

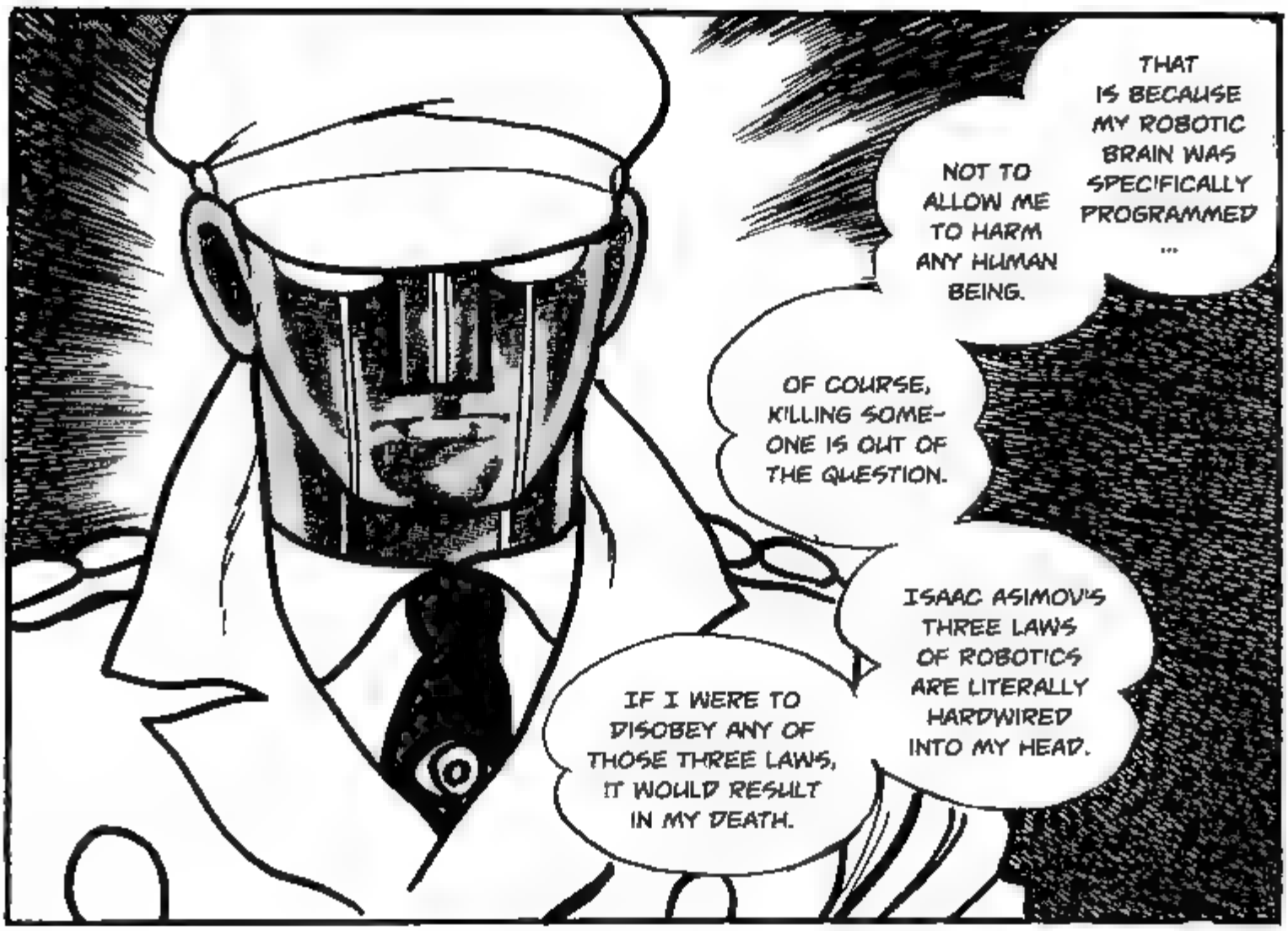
I HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, DIDN'T I?!

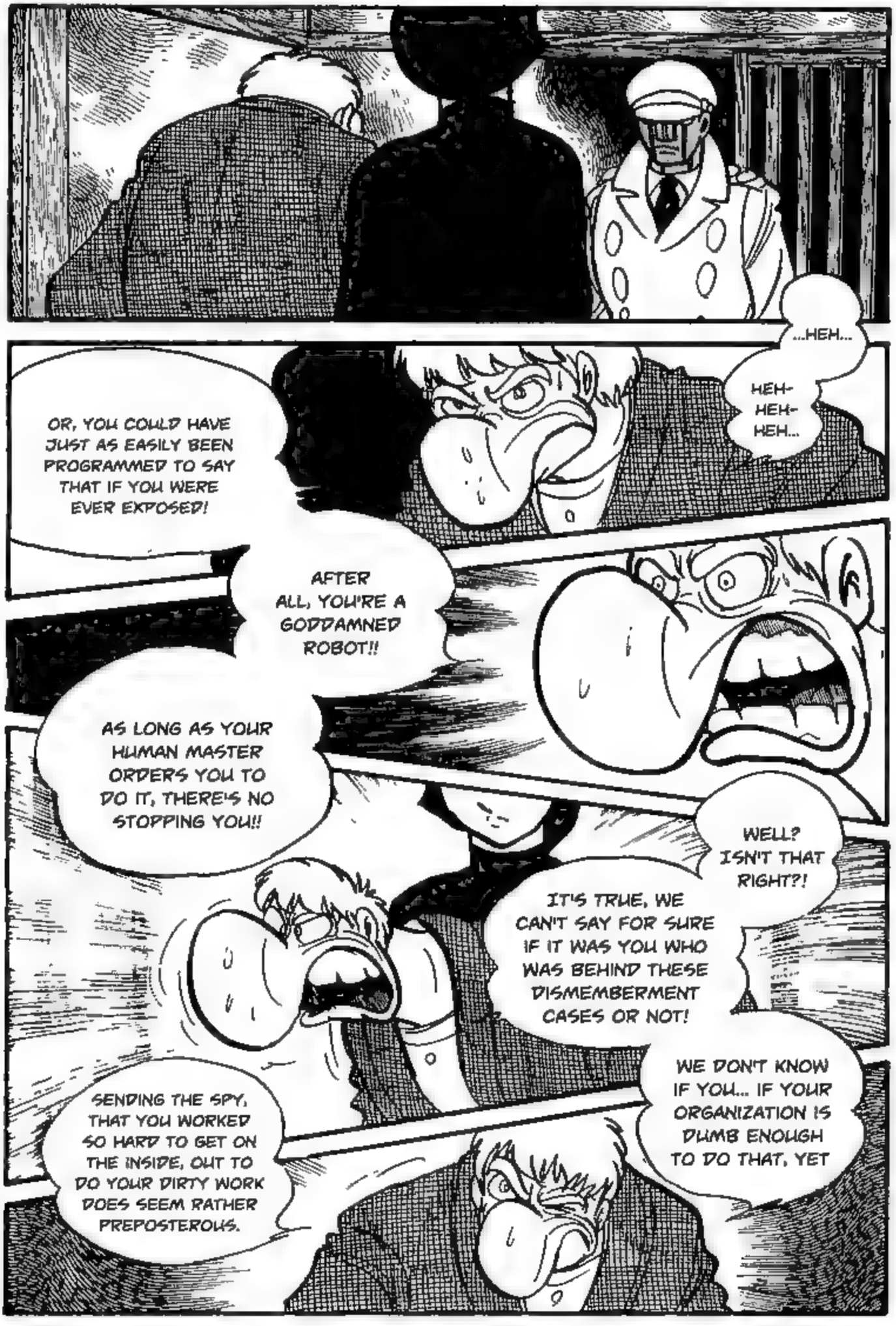
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE

I WOULD BE UNABLE TO DO SUCH A THING.

THAT IS IN-COR-RECT

.....


THAT IS BECAUSE MY ROBOTIC BRAIN WAS SPECIFICALLY PROGRAMMED ...
NOT TO ALLOW ME TO HARM ANY HUMAN BEING.
OF COURSE, KILLING SOME-ONE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
ISAAC ASIMOV'S THREE LAWS OF ROBOTICS ARE LITERALLY HARDWIRED INTO MY HEAD.
IF I WERE TO DISOBEY ANY OF THOSE THREE LAWS, IT WOULD RESULT IN MY DEATH.


...HEH...
HEH-HEH-HEH...
OR, YOU COULD HAVE JUST AS EASILY BEEN PROGRAMMED TO SAY THAT IF YOU WERE EVER EXPOSED!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A GODDAMNED ROBOT!!
AS LONG AS YOUR HUMAN MASTER ORDERS YOU TO DO IT, THERE'S NO STOPPING YOU!!
WELL? ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!
IT'S TRUE, WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE IF IT WAS YOU WHO WAS BEHIND THESE DISMEMBERMENT CASES OR NOT!
WE DON'T KNOW IF YOU... IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS DUMB ENOUGH TO DO THAT, YET
SENDING THE SPY, THAT YOU WORKED SO HARD TO GET ON THE INSIDE, OUT TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK DOES SEEM RATHER PREPOSTEROUS.

I BELIEVE YOU CAME FROM A GROUP THAT CREATES ROBOTS THAT ACT AS HIT MEN!

MM-HMM... MM-HEH-HEH-HEH...

BUT... EVEN SO!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE CULPRIT OF THE DISMEMBERMENT CASES...

FROM THE GROUP THAT HAS ROBOTS WHO CAN EASILY TEAR HUMAN BEINGS LIMB FROM LIMB!

MAY NOT BE YOU... BUT IT'S CERTAINLY SOMEONE FROM YOUR ORGANIZATION... ONE OF YOUR COMRADES... ANOTHER HUNK-OF-JUNK CLOCKWORK DOLL!!

WELL, IF IT IS ANOTHER ROBOT OF THE SAME KIND AS ME...

WHAT WOULD ITS MOTIVE BE?

AT PRESENT, THE CRIMES LOOK LIKE RANDOM ACTS OF VIOLENCE WITHOUT A CLEAR MOTIVE...

WHERE SOMEONE KILLED A RANDOM PASSERBY BY CUTTING THEM APART...

...A *ROBOT* DID THIS!

YOU SAID IT YOURSELF, BEFORE!

THAT IT LOOKED LIKE THE ACT OF A ROBOT WITHOUT ANY FREE WILL!

HEH-HEH-HEH...

WELL, I'M SURE EVEN YOU CAN ADMIT THAT MUCH, RIGHT?!

IF A ROBOT BREAKS DOWN AND LOSES CONTROL, THEN...

EVEN MACHINES ARE CAPABLE OF MAKING MISTAKES... LIKE A CAR GETTING INTO AN ACCIDENT THAT DESTROYS IT.

HEH...

IF IT WERE A ROBOT...

THEY WOULD PERFORM THE ACTION MUCH MORE SKILL-FULLY THAN THAT.

THAT IS ONLY A CRIME THAT HUMANS COULD COMMIT, WHERE THEY BECOME TEMPORARILY INSANE.

THAT WAS NOT SOMETHING A ROBOT COULD DO.

NO.

HNGH...!!

WH... WHY... WHY... WHYYYY YOUUUUUUU!!

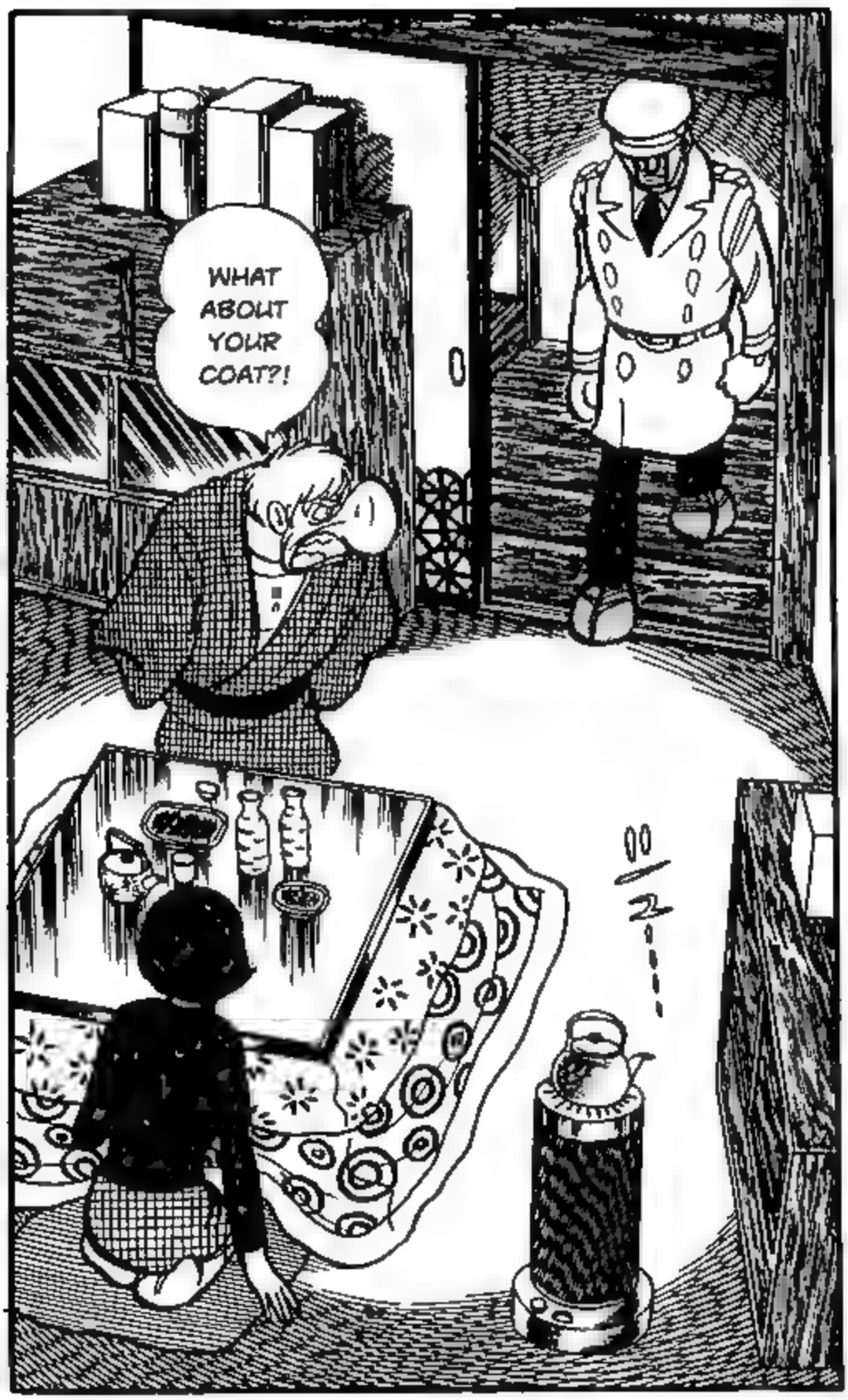
WHY YOUUU...

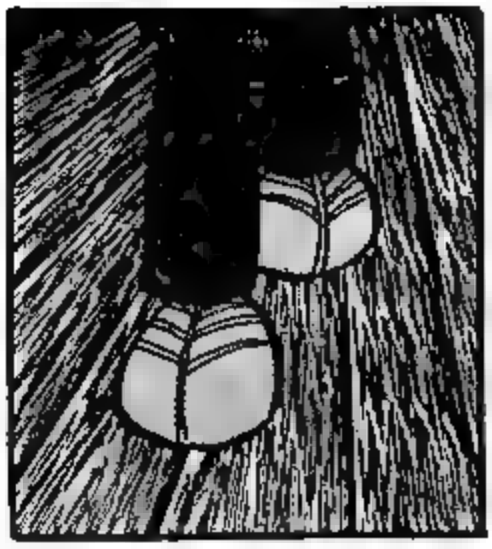
GRRRRGHHH... RRRRRRGHHH... NRRRRRRGH... GRRRRGHHH...

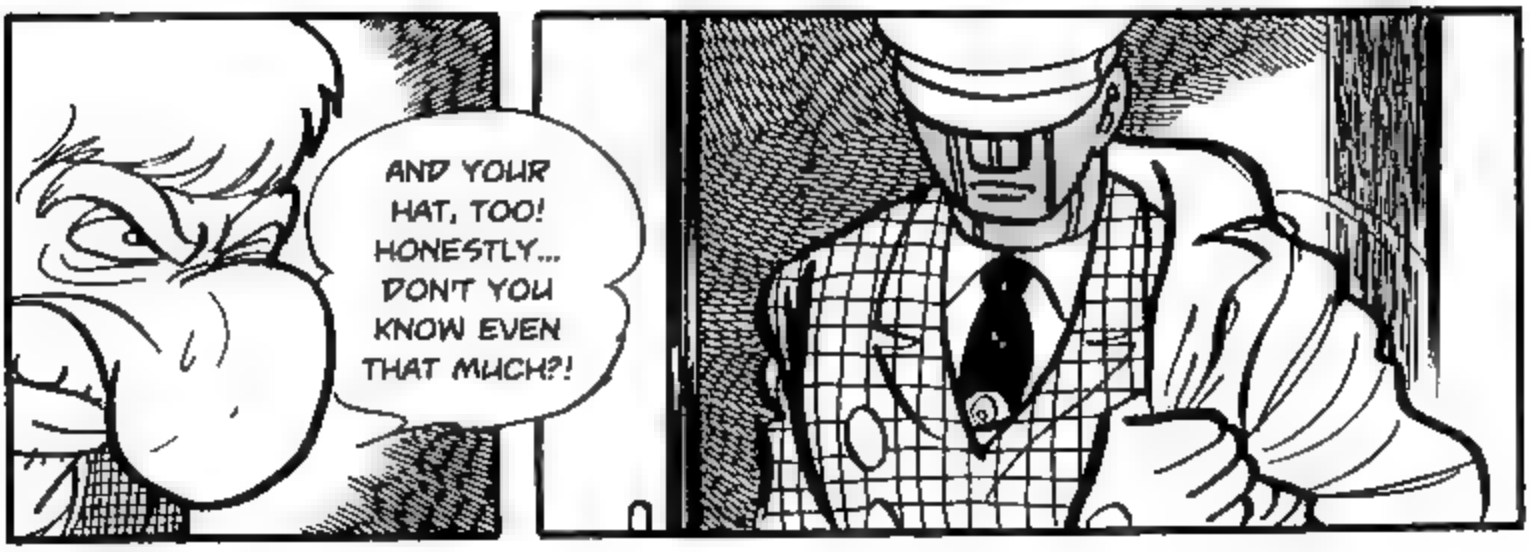
THIS CRIME IS SO DIFFICULT FOR EXACTLY THAT REASON.

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT TIME IT IS, RIGHT NOW?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE STANDING, RIGHT NOW?!
I... I APOLOGIZE.
IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE CASE, YOU SHOULD TALK AT THE POLICE STATION!!

THINGS THAT I HAVE TO HEAR!!
THERE'S STILL A MOUNTAIN OF OTHER THINGS I'D LIKE TO GET OUT OF YOU...
ALL... ALL RIGHT... COME IN AND SIT DOWN, THEN!!
...YES, SIR.
YOU'D BETTER NOT WALK IN WITH MUDDY FEET!

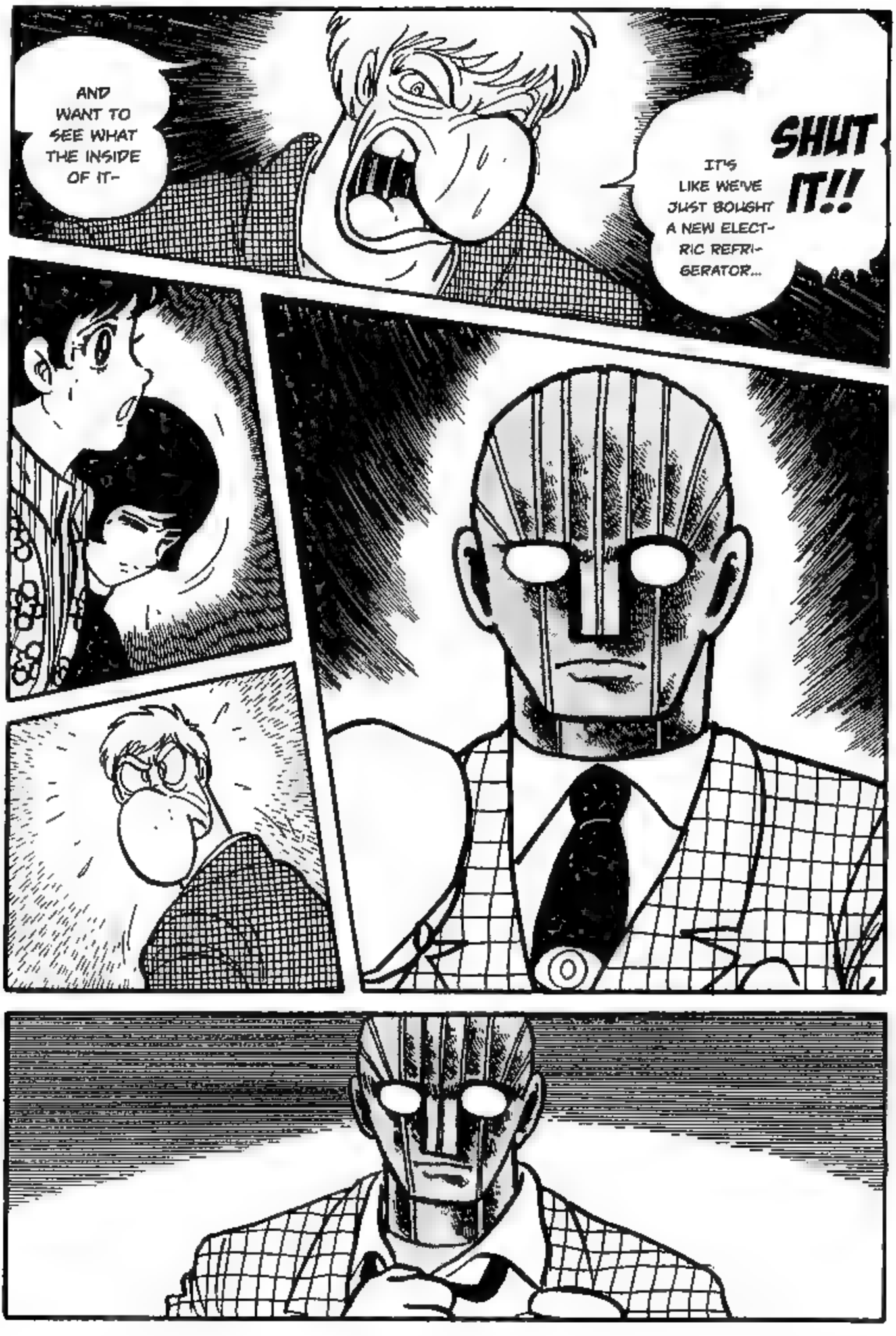

WHAT ABOUT YOUR COAT?!

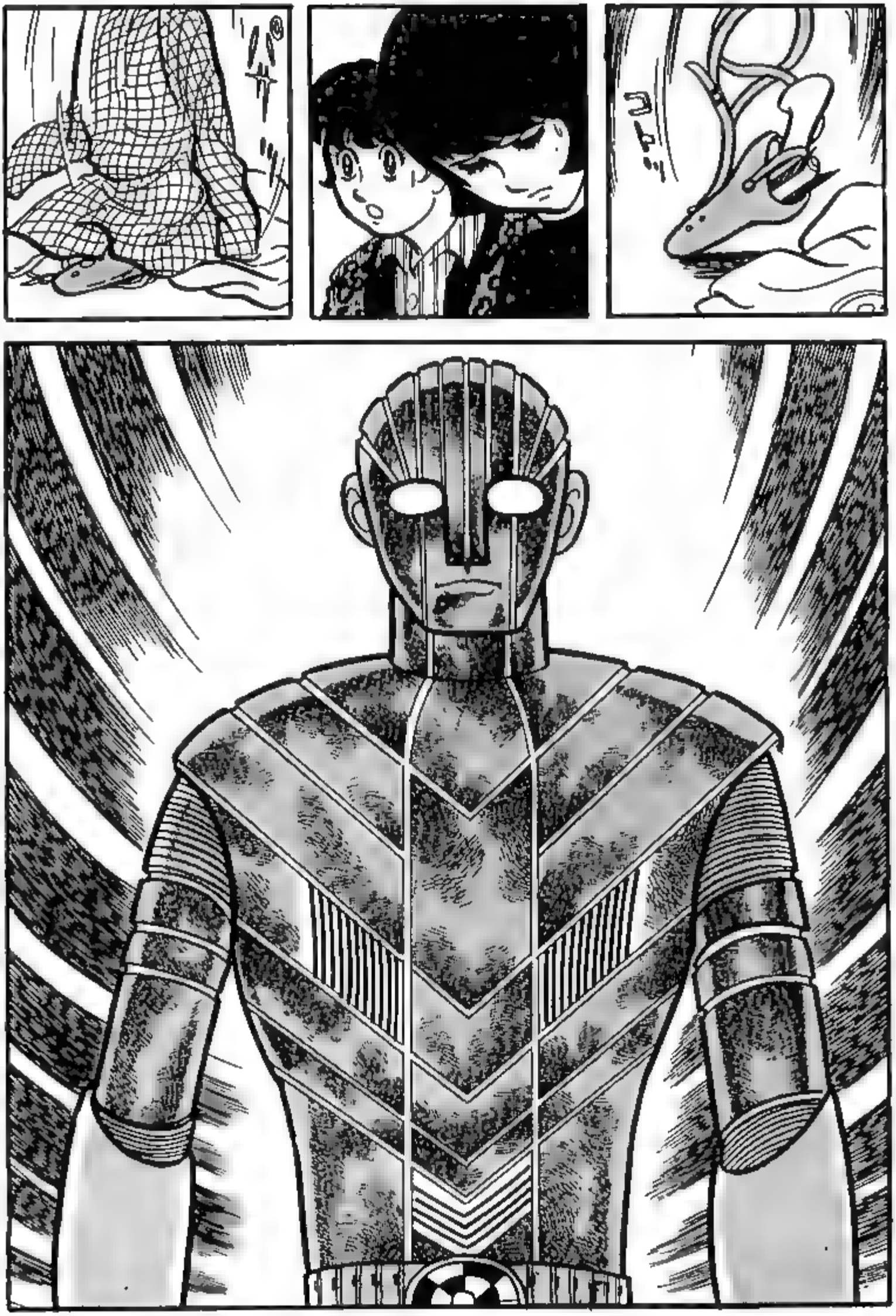


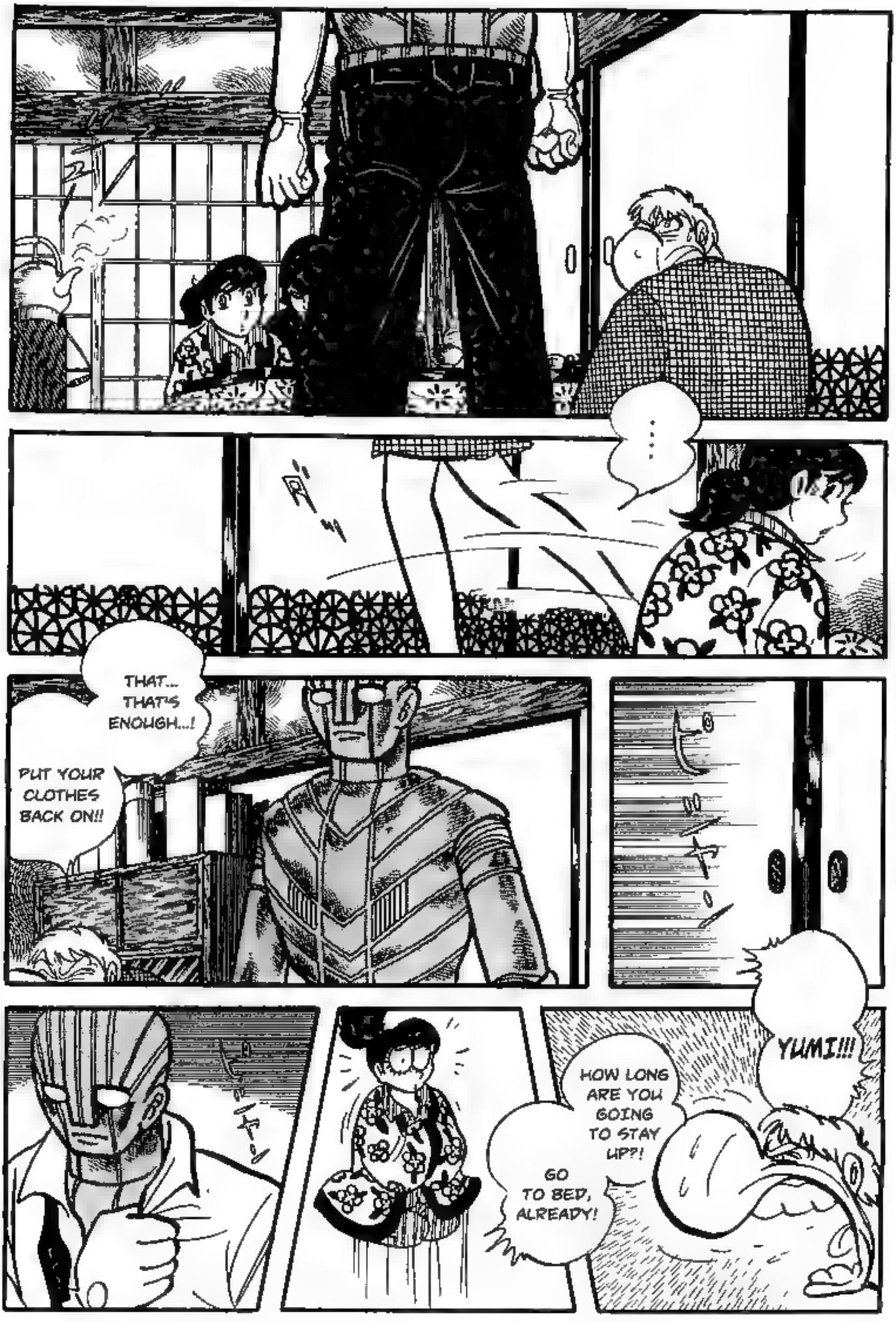

AND YOUR HAT, TOO! HONESTLY... DON'T YOU KNOW EVEN THAT MUCH?!

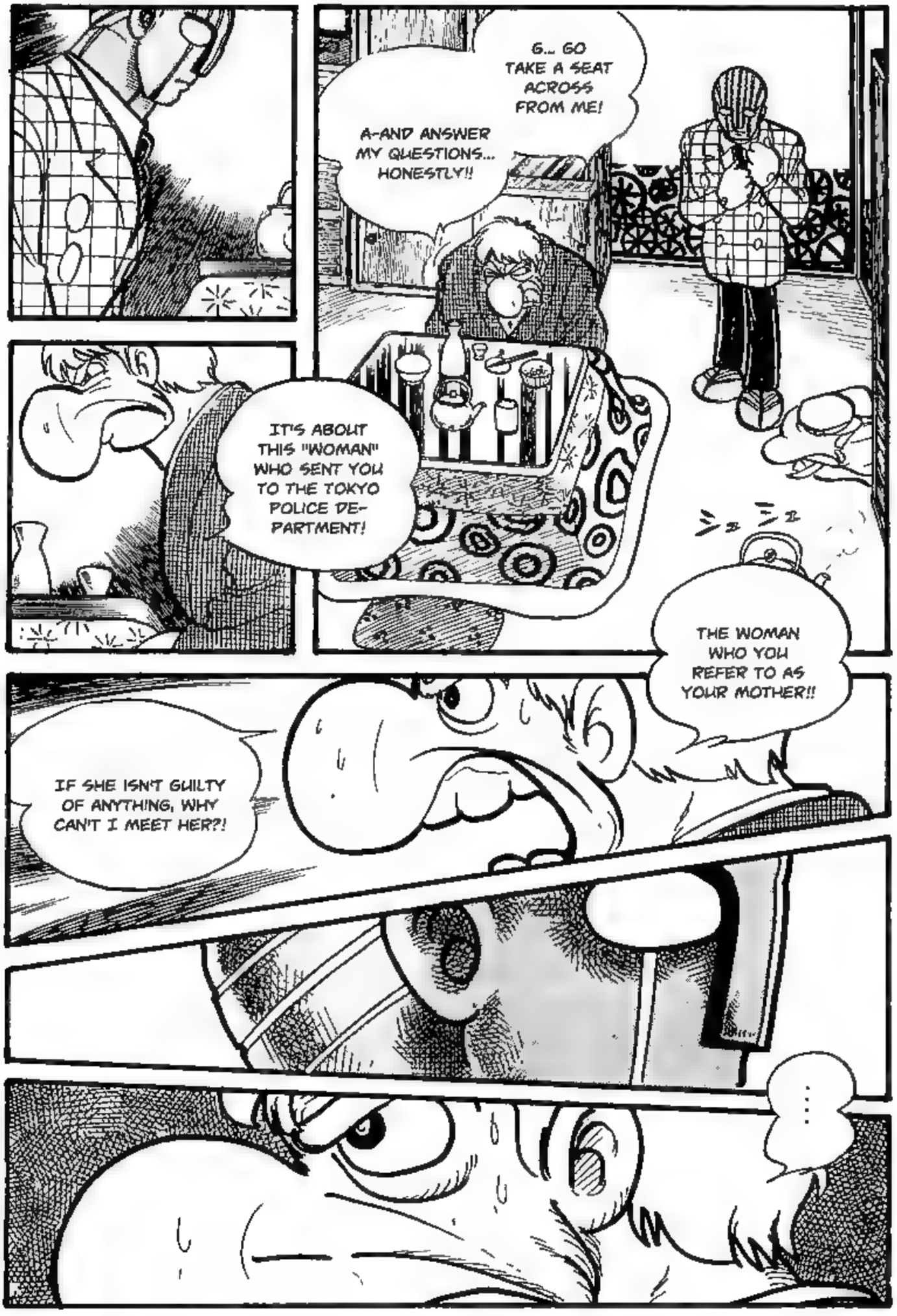
WHAT, YOUR ROBO-BRAIN CAN'T TELL WHAT I'M SAYING TO YOU?!
HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? WHEN YOU ENTER SOMEONE'S HOUSE, YOU HAVE TO TAKE OFF YOUR CAP!
DON'T TELL ME... YOU... YOU'RE EMBARRASSED TO EXPOSE YOURSELF IN FRONT OF THESE YOUNG GIRLS... IS THAT WHAT IT IS...?!
HEH-
HEH-
HEH...
HEH!

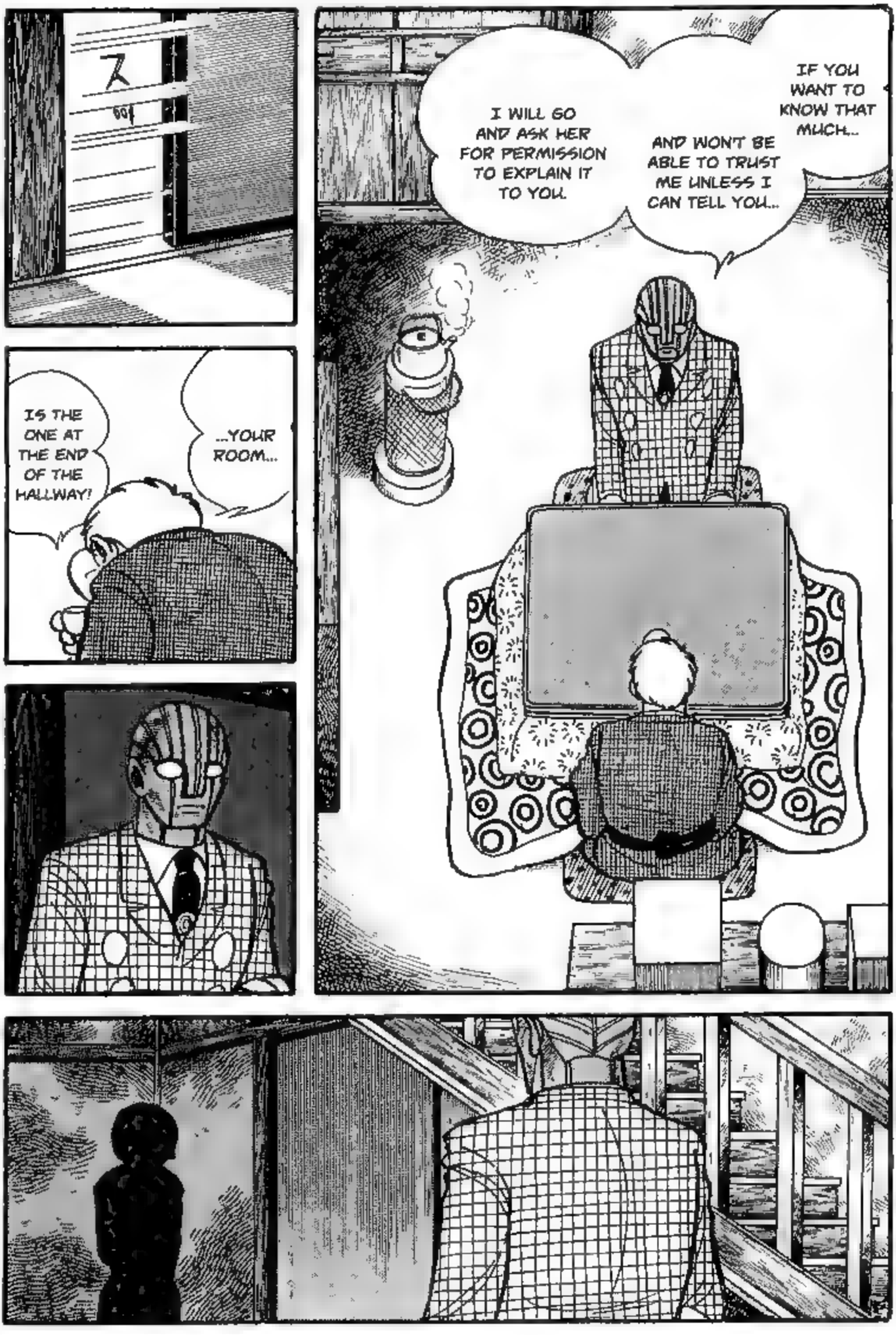
IF YOU'RE GONNA WATCH FROM OUT THERE, WHY NOT COME IN HERE, INSTEAD!
YUMI!
YOU SHOULD SEE FIRSTHAND WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIVING WITH... SO TAKE A GOOD LOOK!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT... COME IN!
...
I WONDER WHAT A ROBOT'S BODY LOOKS LIKE...
I'D LIKE TO SEE IT, MYSELF!!
NOW THEN, K... TAKE OFF YOUR HAT! ...HEH-HEH... AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE OFF THE REST, AS WELL!
F... FATHER!!


AND WANT TO SEE WHAT THE INSIDE OF IT-
IT'S LIKE WE'VE JUST BOUGHT A NEW ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR...
SHUT IT!!

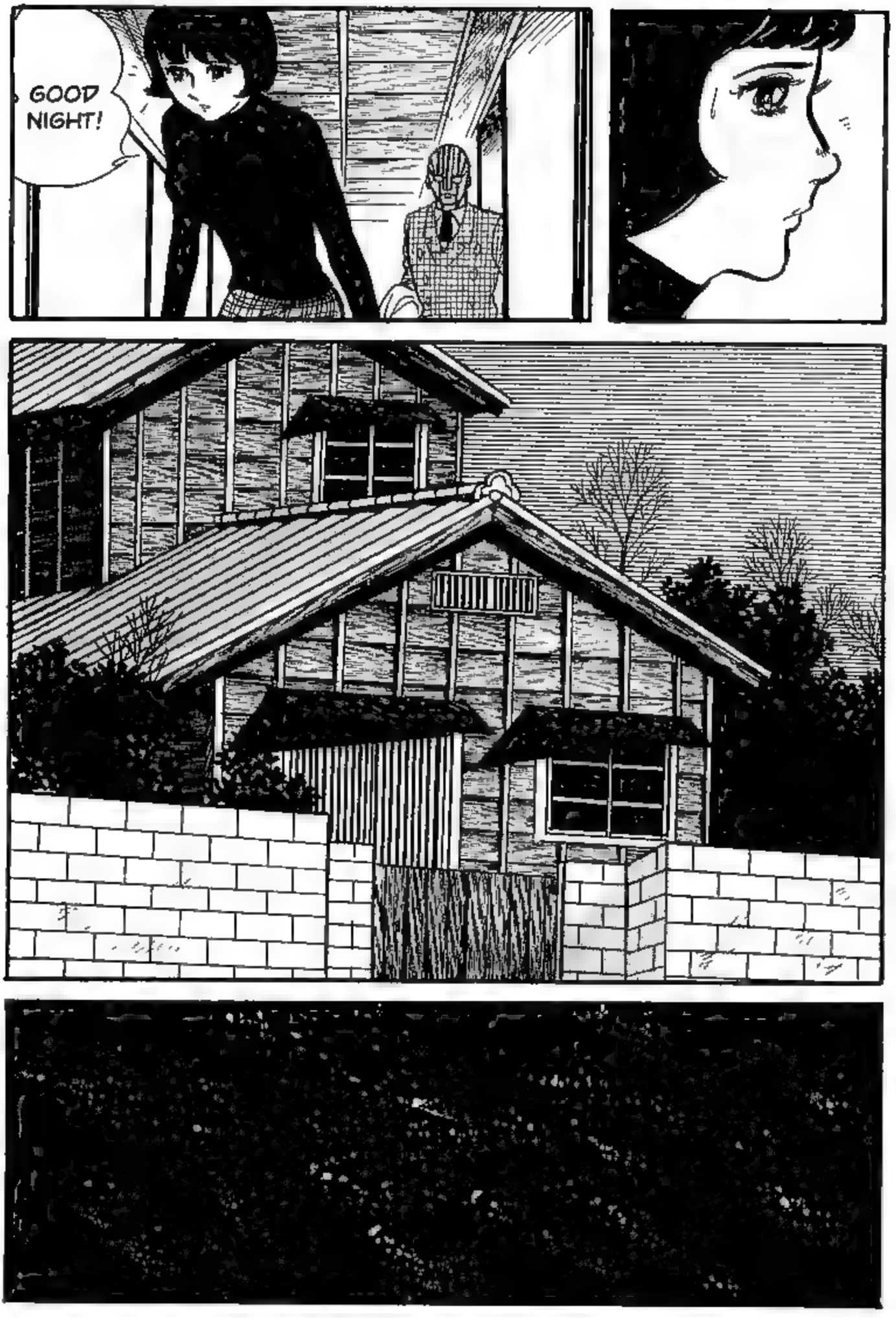



THAT... THAT'S ENOUGH...!
PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON!!
YUMI!!!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY UP?!
GO TO BED, ALREADY!


G.. GO TAKE A SEAT ACROSS FROM ME!
A-AND ANSWER MY QUESTIONS... HONESTLY!!
IT'S ABOUT THIS "WOMAN" WHO SENT YOU TO THE TOKYO POLICE DE-PARTMENT!
THE WOMAN WHO YOU REFER TO AS YOUR MOTHER!!
IF SHE ISN'T GUILTY OF ANYTHING, WHY CAN'T I MEET HER?!
……


IS THE ONE AT THE END OF THE HALLWAY!
...YOUR ROOM...
I WILL GO AND ASK HER FOR PERMISSION TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
AND WON'T BE ABLE TO TRUST ME UNLESS I CAN TELL YOU...
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THAT MUCH...

IF I SCARED YOU JUST A WHILE AGO...
I AM SORRY...
.....
HE'S BEEN DRINKING SAKE...
SO HE'S A BIT DRUNK!
AND PLEASE... EXCUSE MY FATHER!
I'D ALSO LIKE TO APOLOGIZE... FOR RUNNING OUT OF THE ROOM... THE WAY I DID...!
OH, N... NO...! THAT'S NOT IT...


GOOD NIGHT!

LINING UP THE BODY PARTS IN A ROW LIKE THIS...?!
WHO'S PULLING THIS DUMB PRANK ON US?!
WHO... WHO DID THIS?!
THE TOOL USED TO CUT THE BODY WAS A SHARP, SCALPEL-LIKE INSTRUMENT.
THE... THE SUSPECT... DID... THIS?!
NO, THIS IS HOW THEY WERE ARRANGED WHEN WE FIRST DISCOVERED THEM.
THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT...
THE CULPRIT MUST GARNER SICK PLEASURE FROM THIS.
AND IT WOULD SEEM HE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED CUTTING AND ARRANGING THE PARTS LIKE THIS.
OR MAYBE HE'S A ROBOT!!
...BASED OFF THE SHEER NUMBER OF BODY PARTS THAT WERE CUT, AND HOW THEY WERE ARRANGED BY SIZE, LIKE THIS...

LOOKS LIKE THEY TOOK A GUN AND BULLETS WITH THEM...

HOW DID THEY SLICE SOMEONE UP WITHOUT CAUSING ANY KIND OF UPROAR?

THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT THE REAL KILLER WANTED US TO THINK! IT'S NOT STRANGE AT ALL IF THE KILLER WAS MADE OF METAL!!

THE CULPRIT HAD A STRANGE REACTION... THE AMOUNT OF INTEREST HE HAD IN THIS ACTIVITY CAN ONLY MEAN HE WAS A DEGENERATE.

THEY WEREN'T VERY METICULOUS...

FINGERPRINTS AND FOOTPRINTS WERE LEFT ALL OVER THE PLACE.

THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE TIME THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED COULD NOT BE LONGER THAN 2 AND A HALF HOURS AGO.

THE BLOOD HAS STILL YET TO COMPLETELY CONSOLIDATE.

HE REPORTED THE CRIME IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINDING IT

THE STORE OWNER CAME TO WORK AND DISCOVERED THE CRIME SCENE 30 MINUTES AGO... HE'S AN OLD MAN, AND LIVES ALONE.

...

WE'VE SENT OUT AN EMERGENCY FORCE TO CHECK THE SURROUNDING AREAS, BUT AS OF RIGHT NOW...

WE JUST HEARD THAT WE'VE FOUND SOME-ONE...
WHO SEEMS LIKE HE COULD BE THE CRIMINAL!!
THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX THAT HAS PROTESTS PREVENTING IT FROM BEING BUILT!
AT THE NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX...
IT'S VERY CLOSE BY!
WHAT ?!
WHERE ?!
THE SUSPECT HAS BECOME VIOLENT, WE ARE UNABLE TO GET CLOSE!!
反対
絶対反対
やめて!
マンション建設反対

[SFX] BANG-BANG.. BANG...

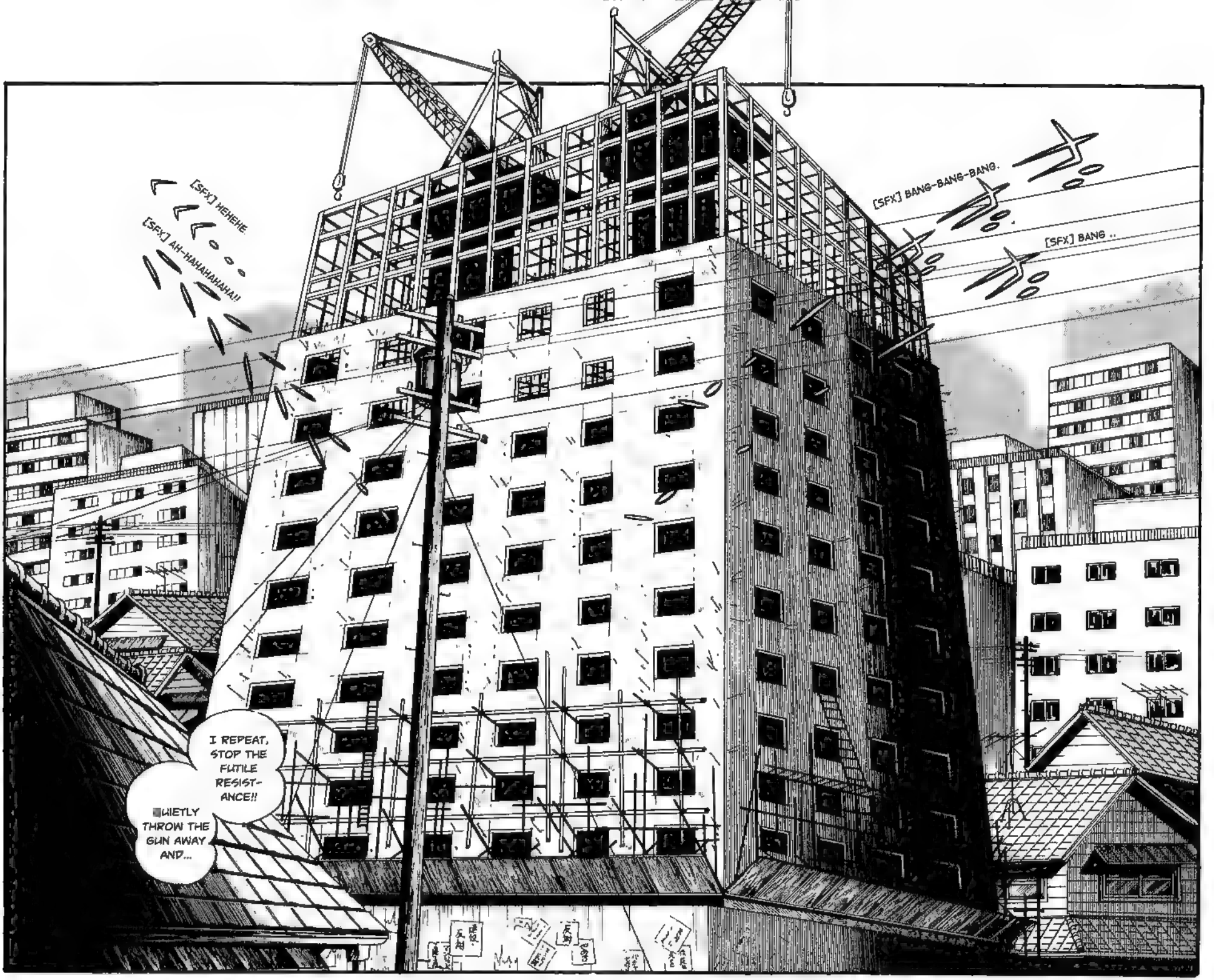
[SFX] PEWWW ..

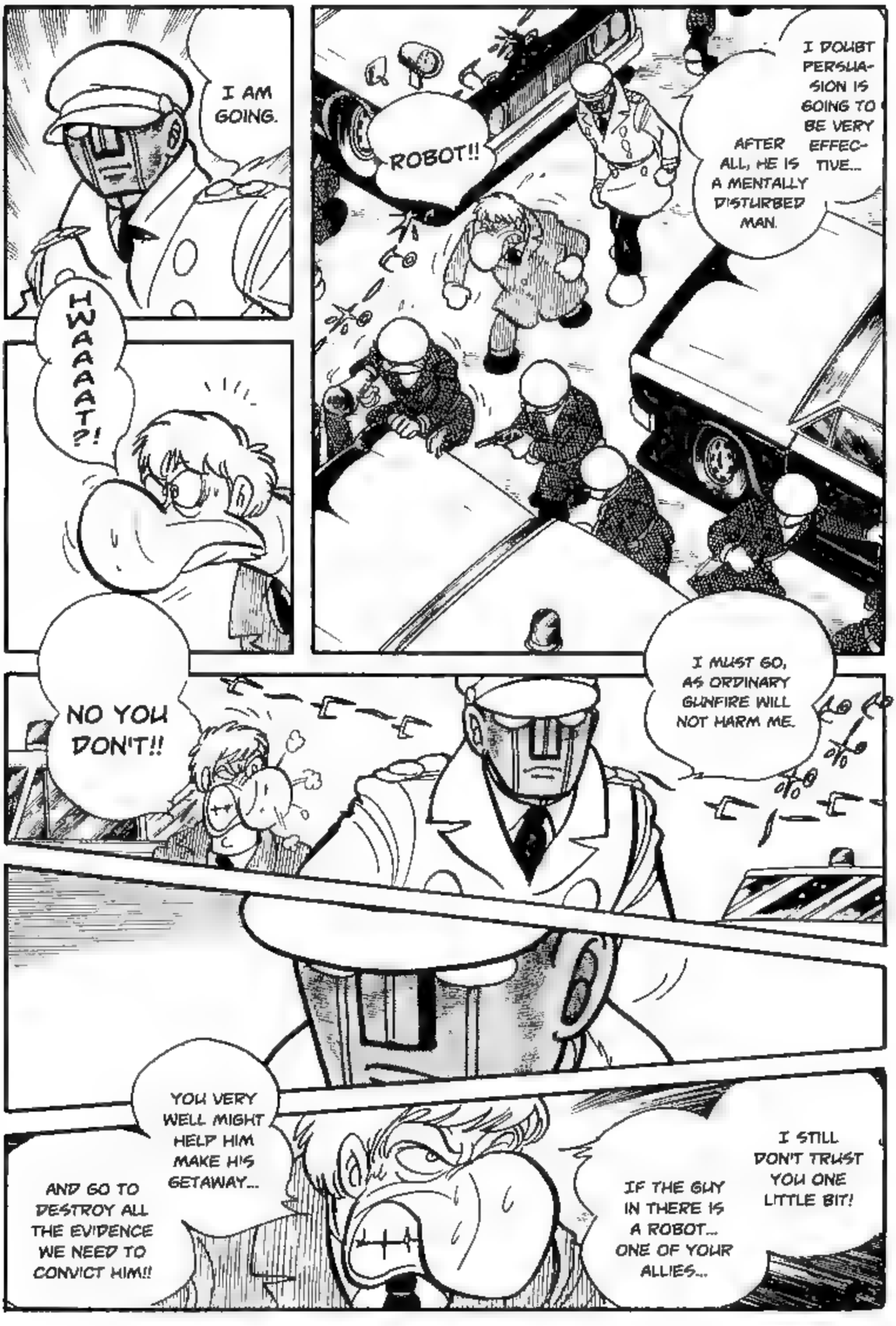
PLEASE STOP THE FUTILE RE-SISTANCE!

WE HAVE YOU COMPLETELY SURROUN-DED...!

THROW THE GUN AWAY AND COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!!

[SFX] KER-POW!!


[SFX] HEHEHE
[SFX] AH-HAHAHAHAHA!!
[SFX] BANG-BANG-BANG.
[SFX] BANG ..
I REPEAT, STOP THE FUTILE RESIST-ANCE!!
■UIETLY THROW THE GUN AWAY AND...


I AM GOING.
HWAAAAT?!
ROBOT!!
I DOUBT PERSUASION IS GOING TO BE VERY EFFECTIVE...
AFTER ALL, HE IS A MENTALLY DISTURBED MAN.
NO YOU DON'T!!
I MUST GO, AS ORDINARY GUNFIRE WILL NOT HARM ME.
YOU VERY WELL MIGHT HELP HIM MAKE HIS GETAWAY...
AND GO TO DESTROY ALL THE EVIDENCE WE NEED TO CONVICT HIM!!
IF THE GUY IN THERE IS A ROBOT... ONE OF YOUR ALLIES...
I STILL DON'T TRUST YOU ONE LITTLE BIT!

IM-POS-SIBLE!

AH...

AH ...!!

YOU CAN'T GO!

HEY, YOU!!

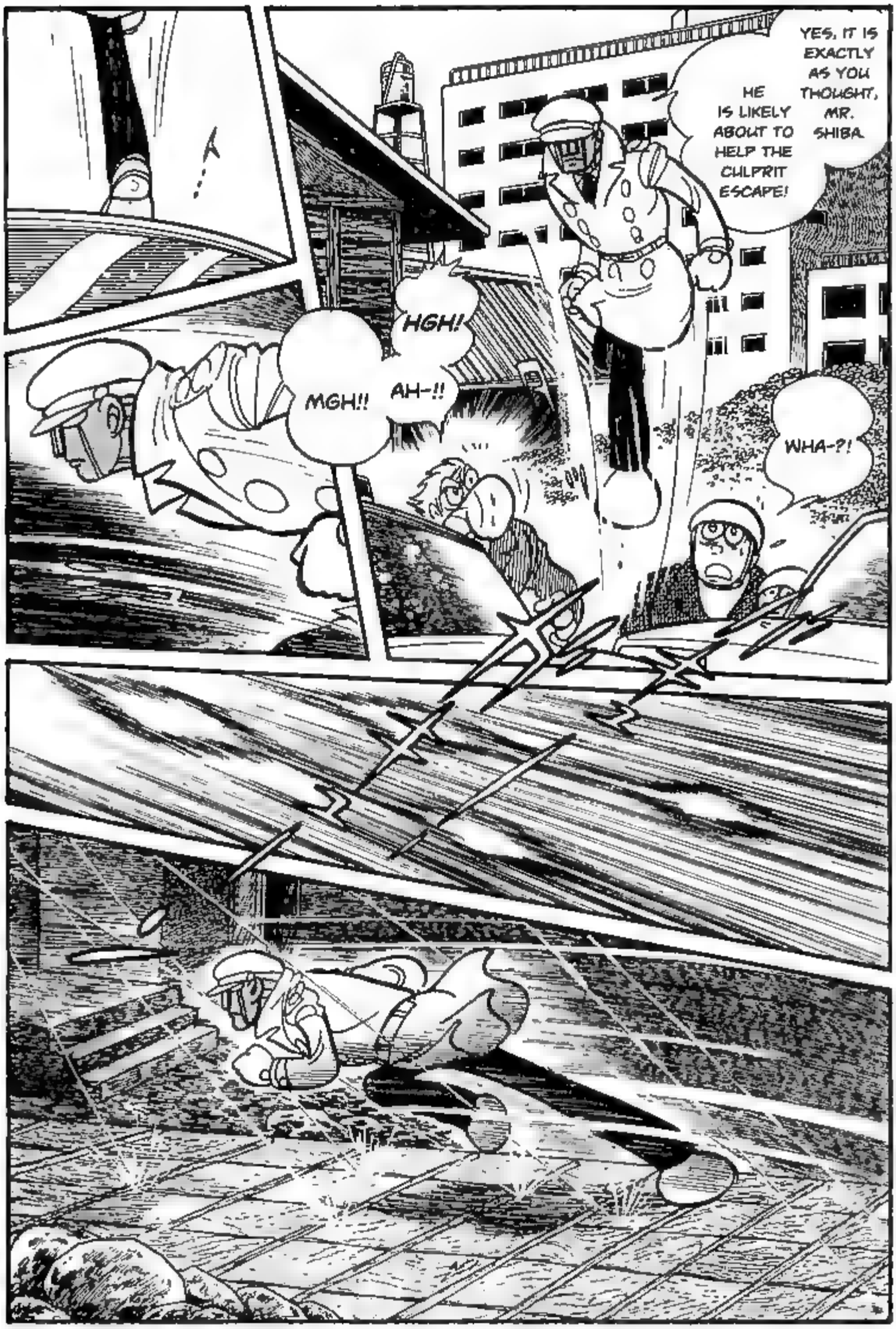
HEY, STOP RIGHT THERE!

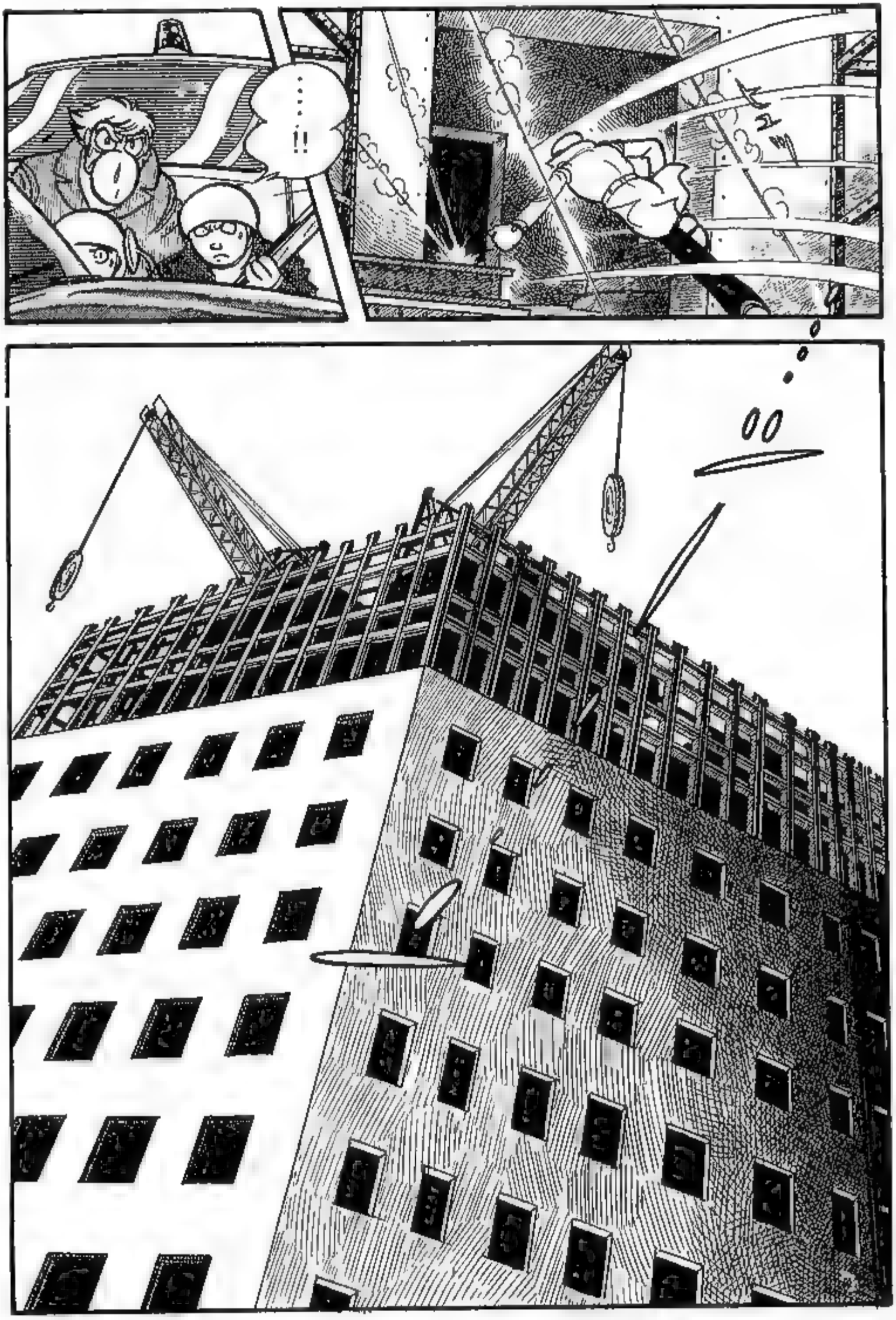
...WHO IS THAT?

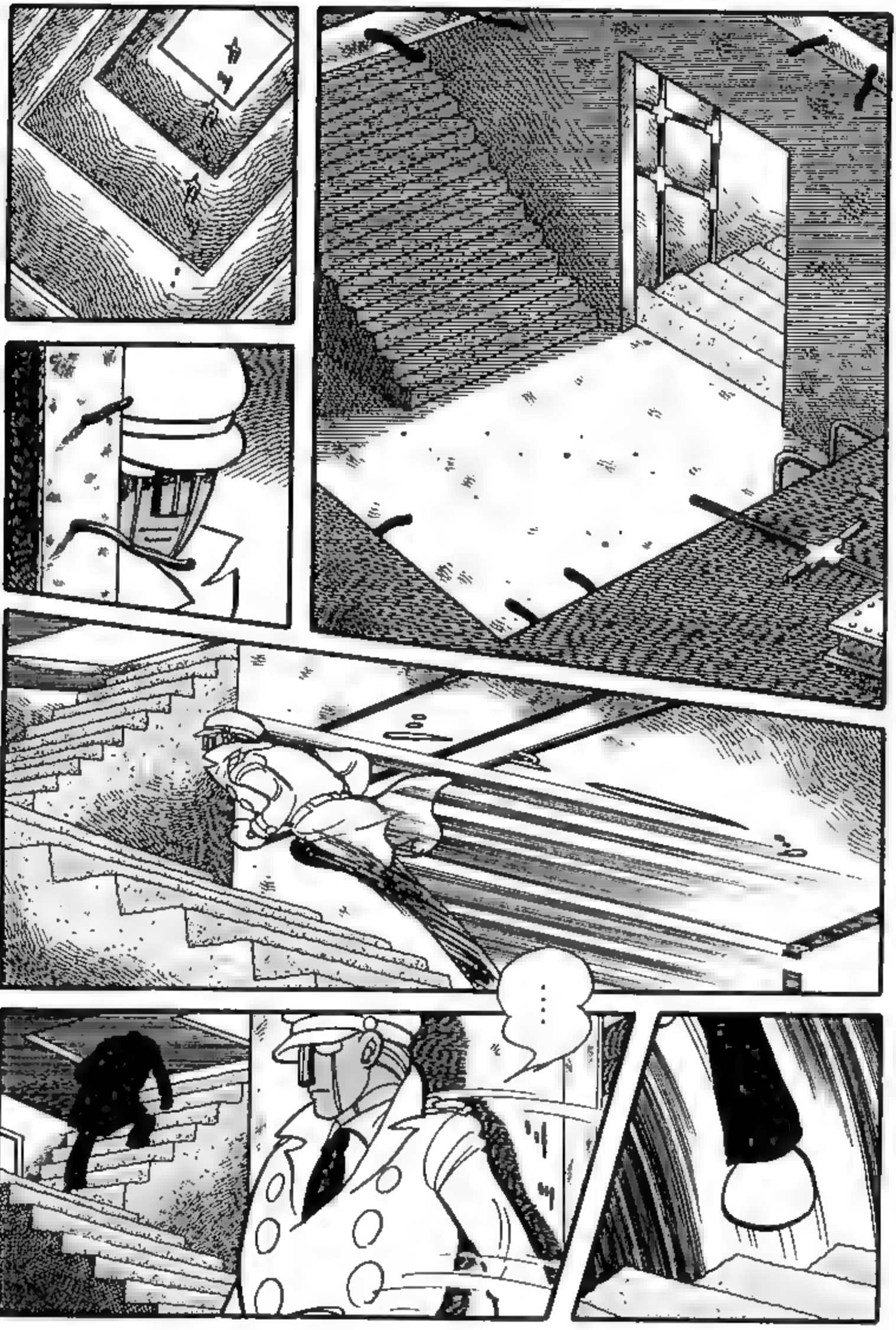
WHAAT ?!

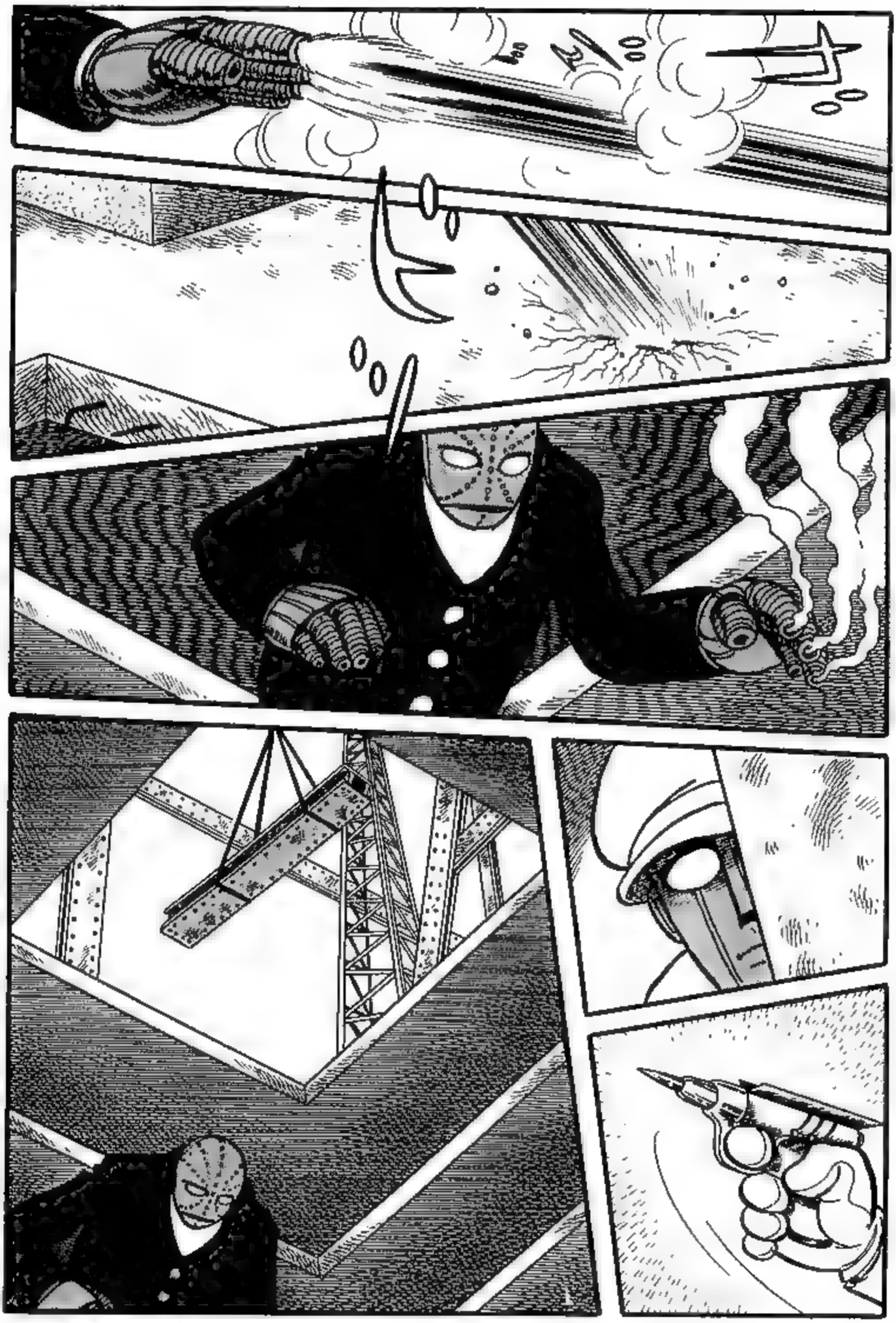
TH-THEN, I... I WAS RIGHT...

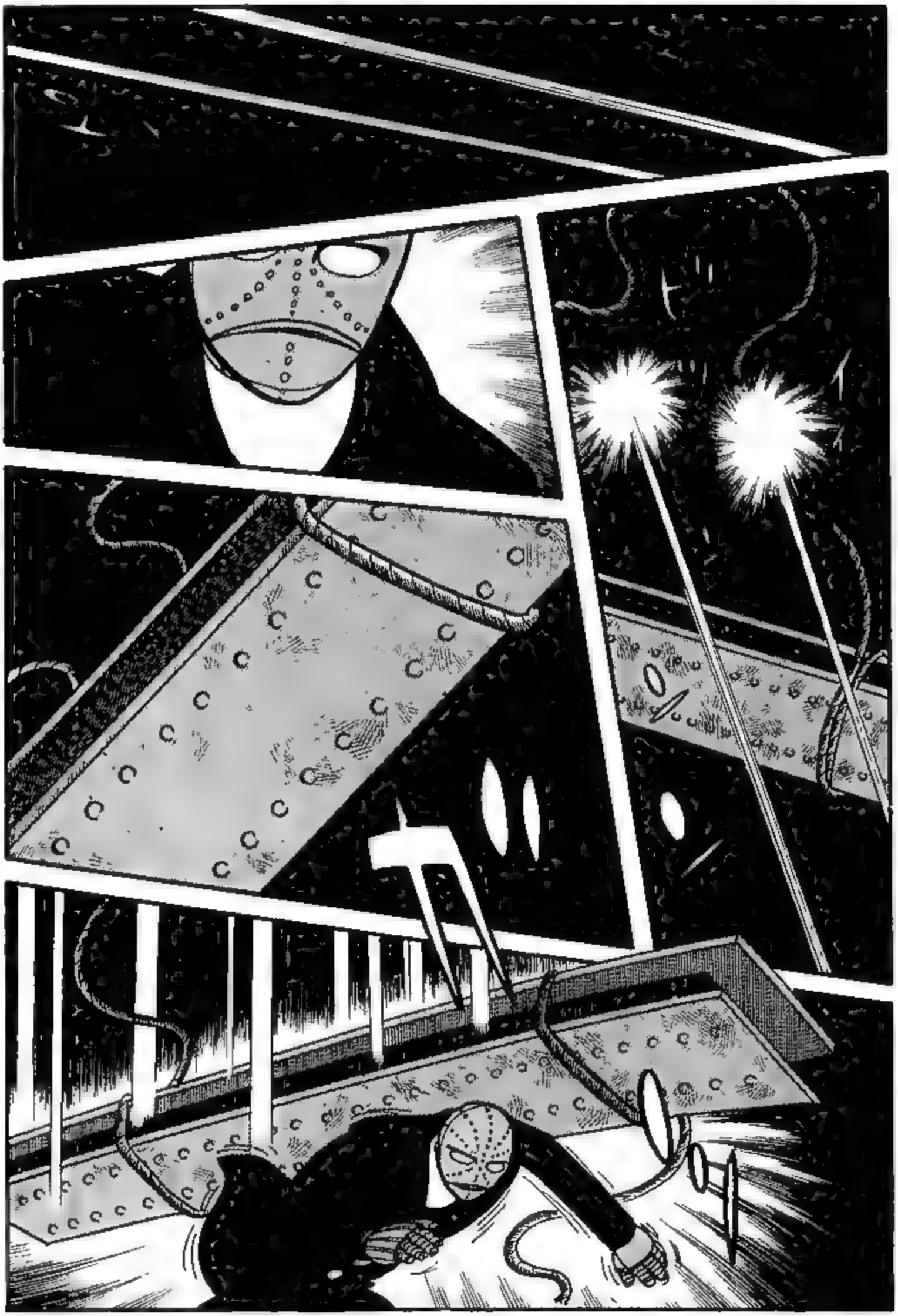
IT'S A ROBOT!!

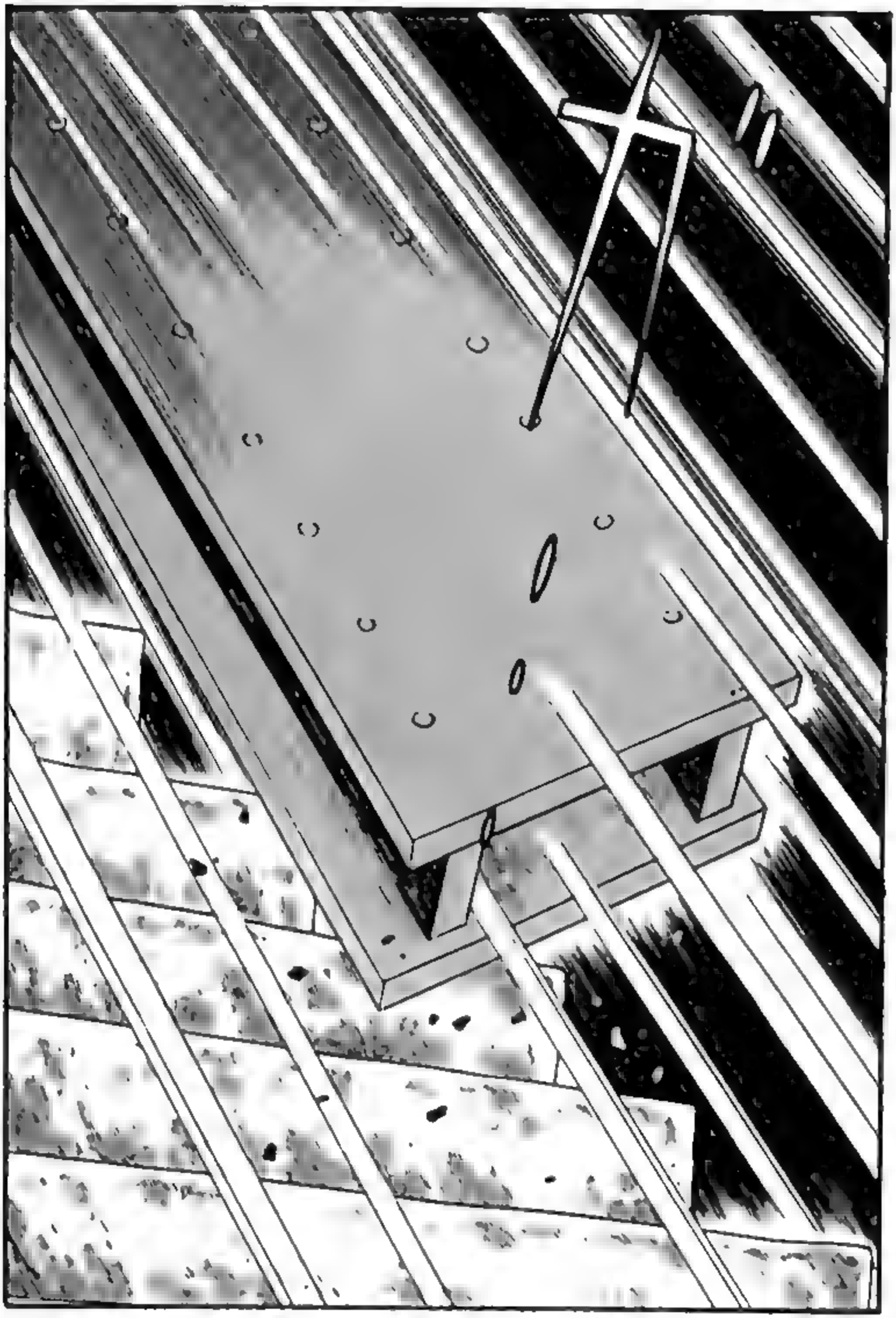

A...
HE IS LIKELY ABOUT TO HELP THE CULPRIT ESCAPE!
YES, IT IS EXACTLY AS YOU THOUGHT, MR. SHIBA.
HGH!
MGH!!
AH-!!
WHA-?!

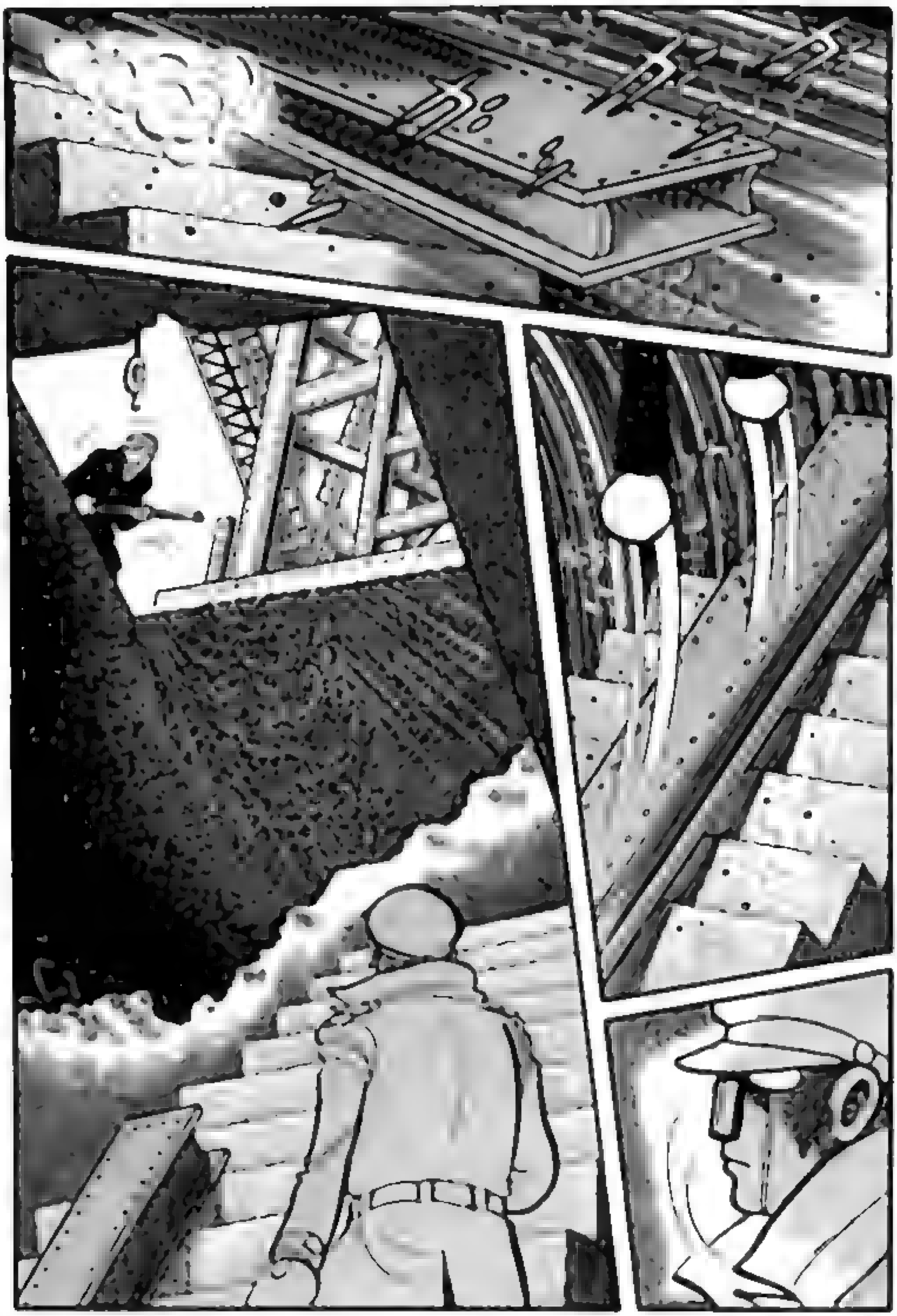

……
!!
00

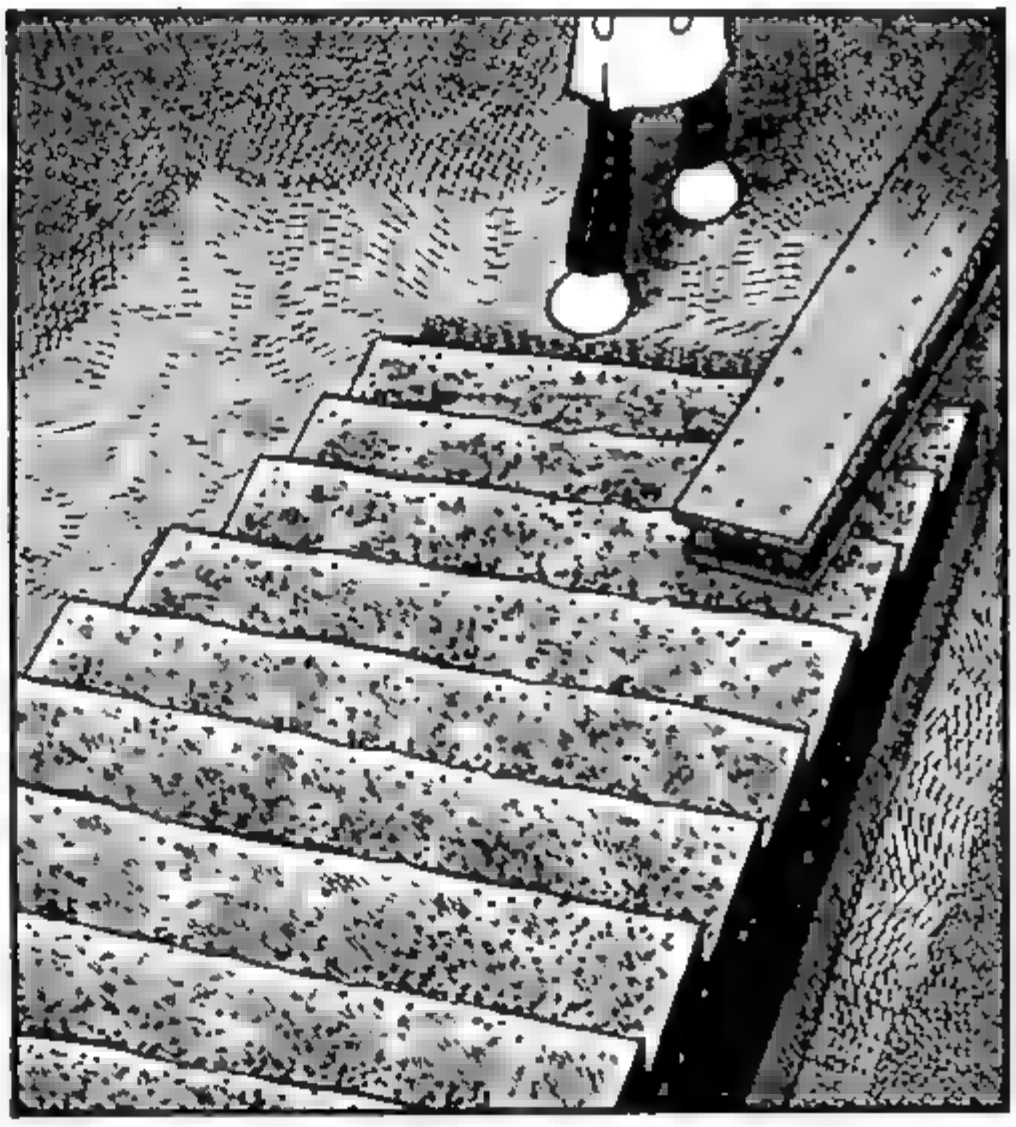


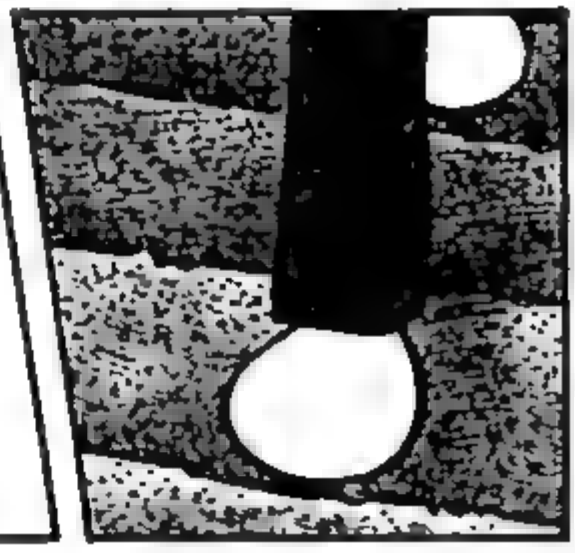


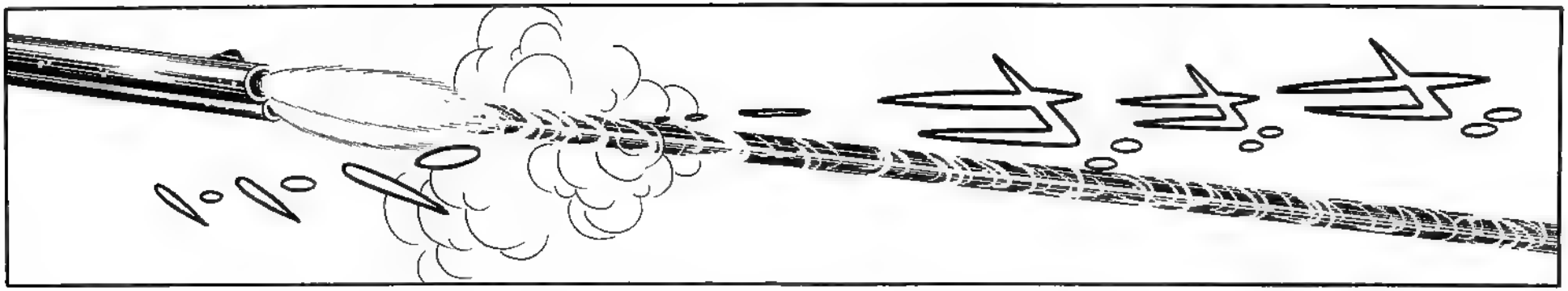


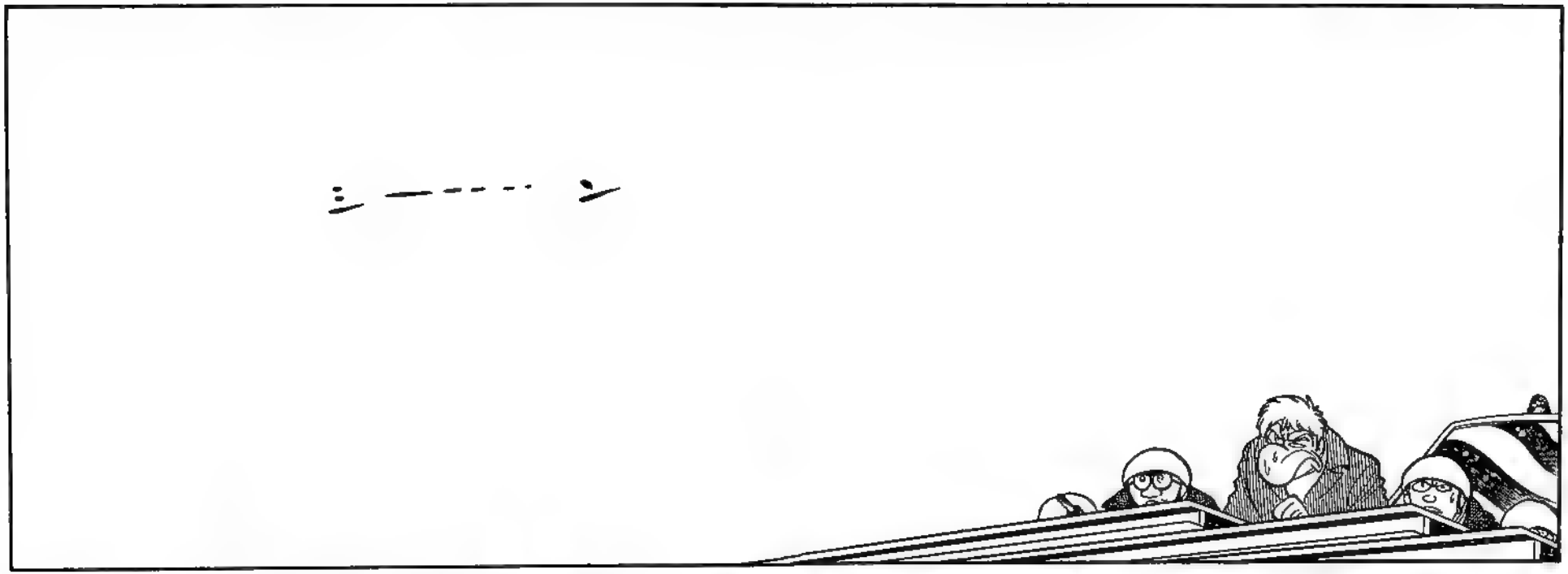


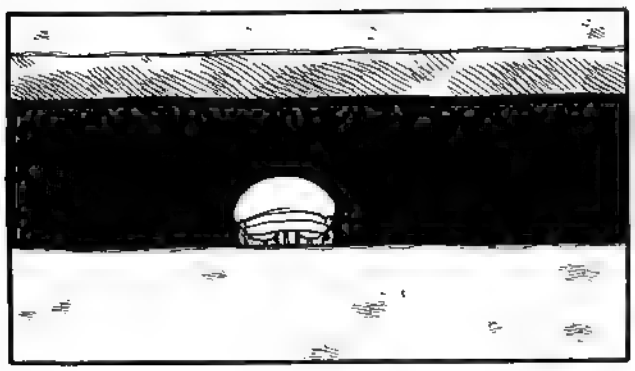


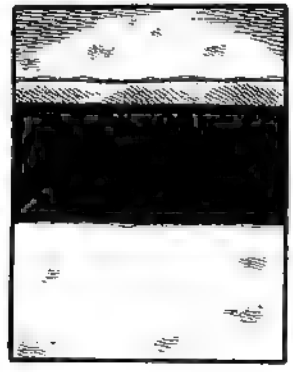


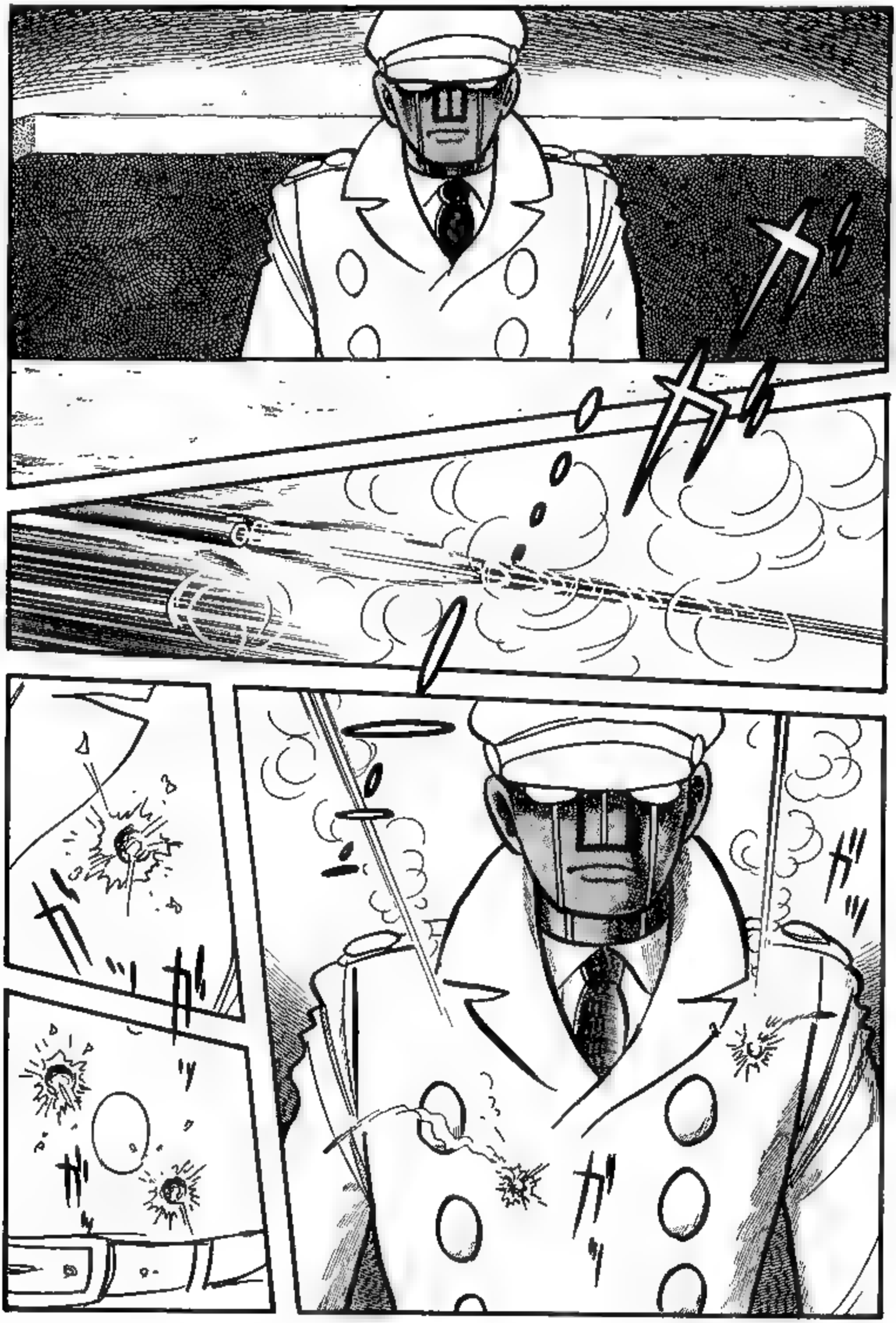


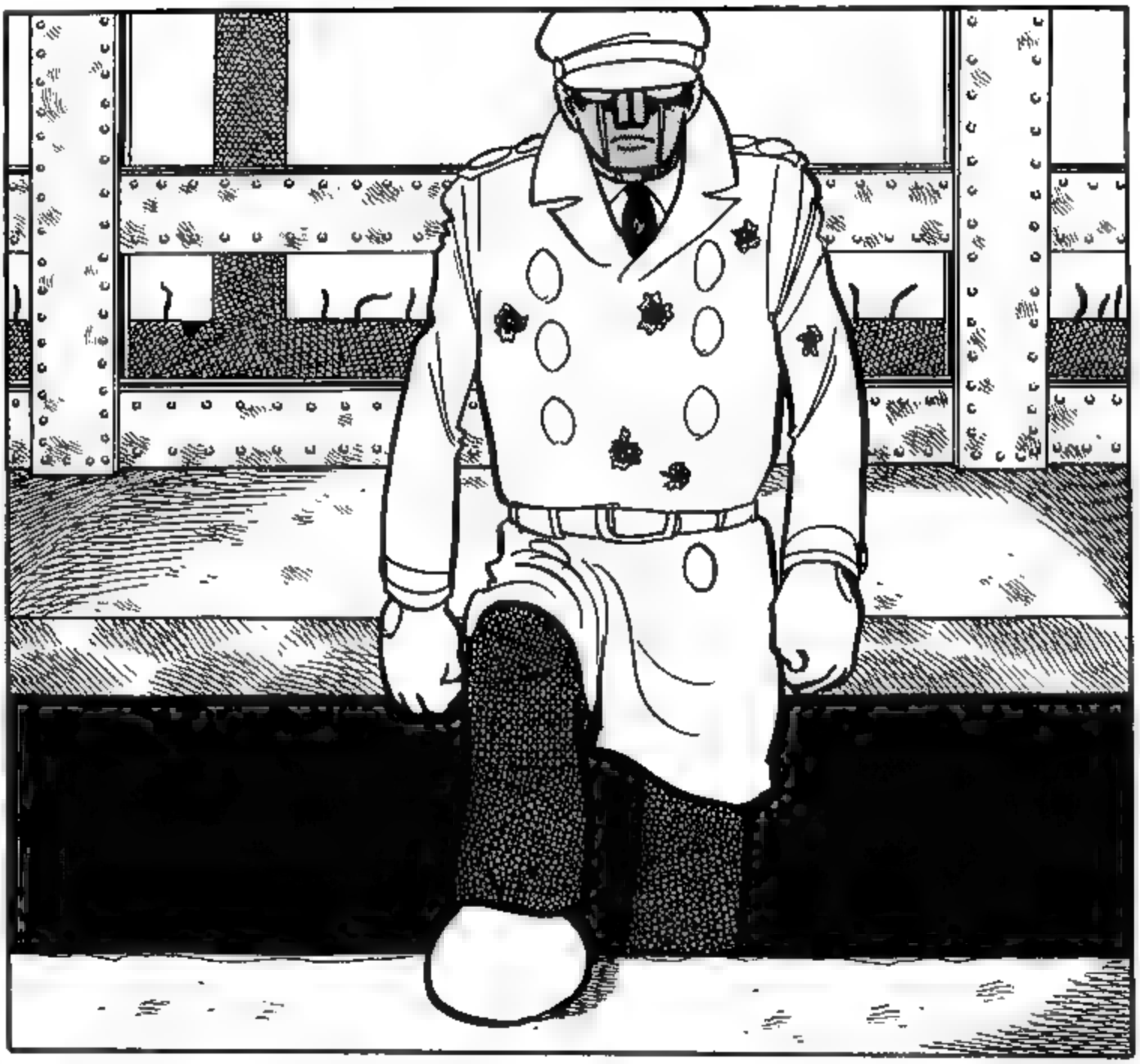


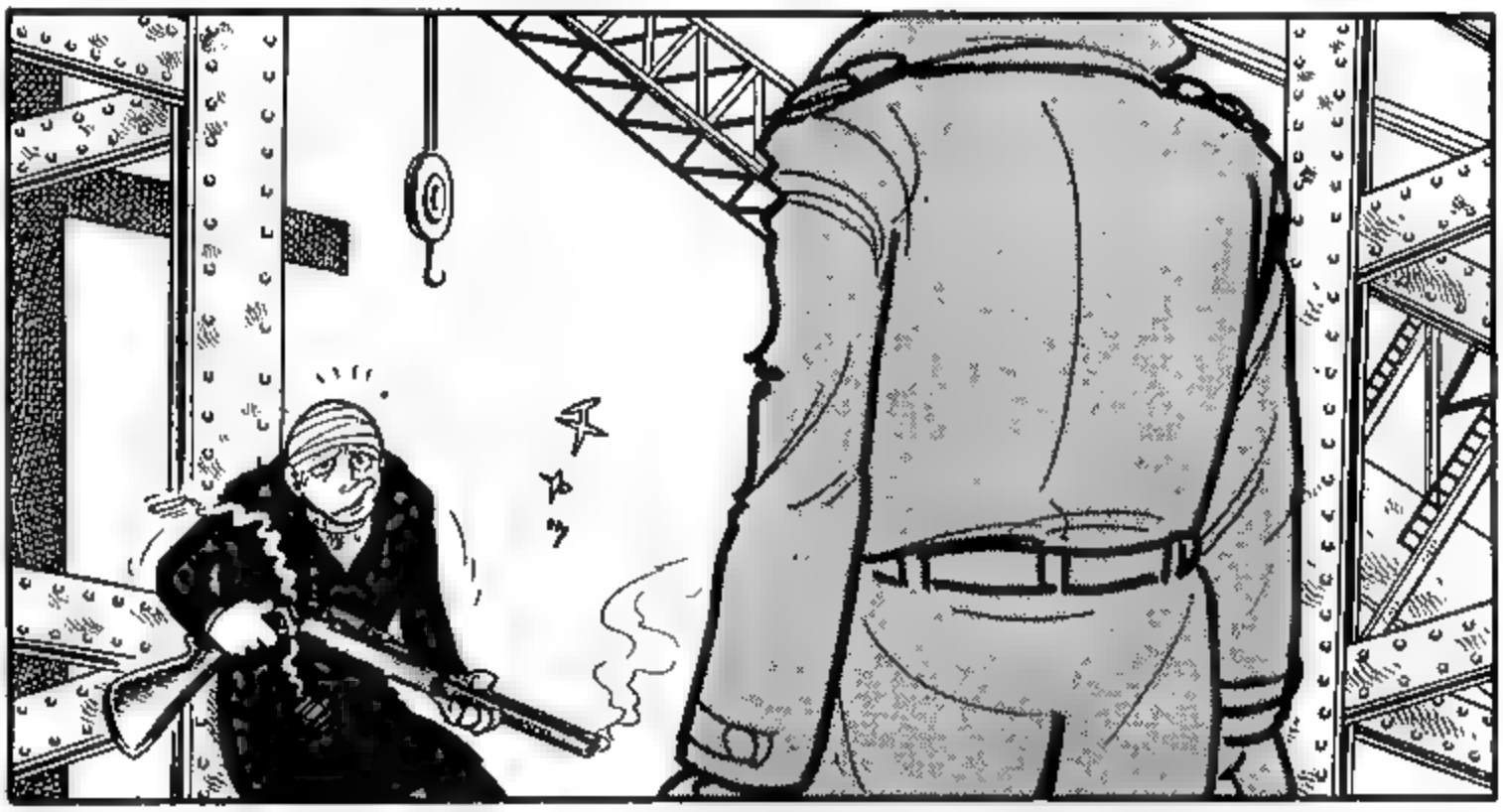












ナニ

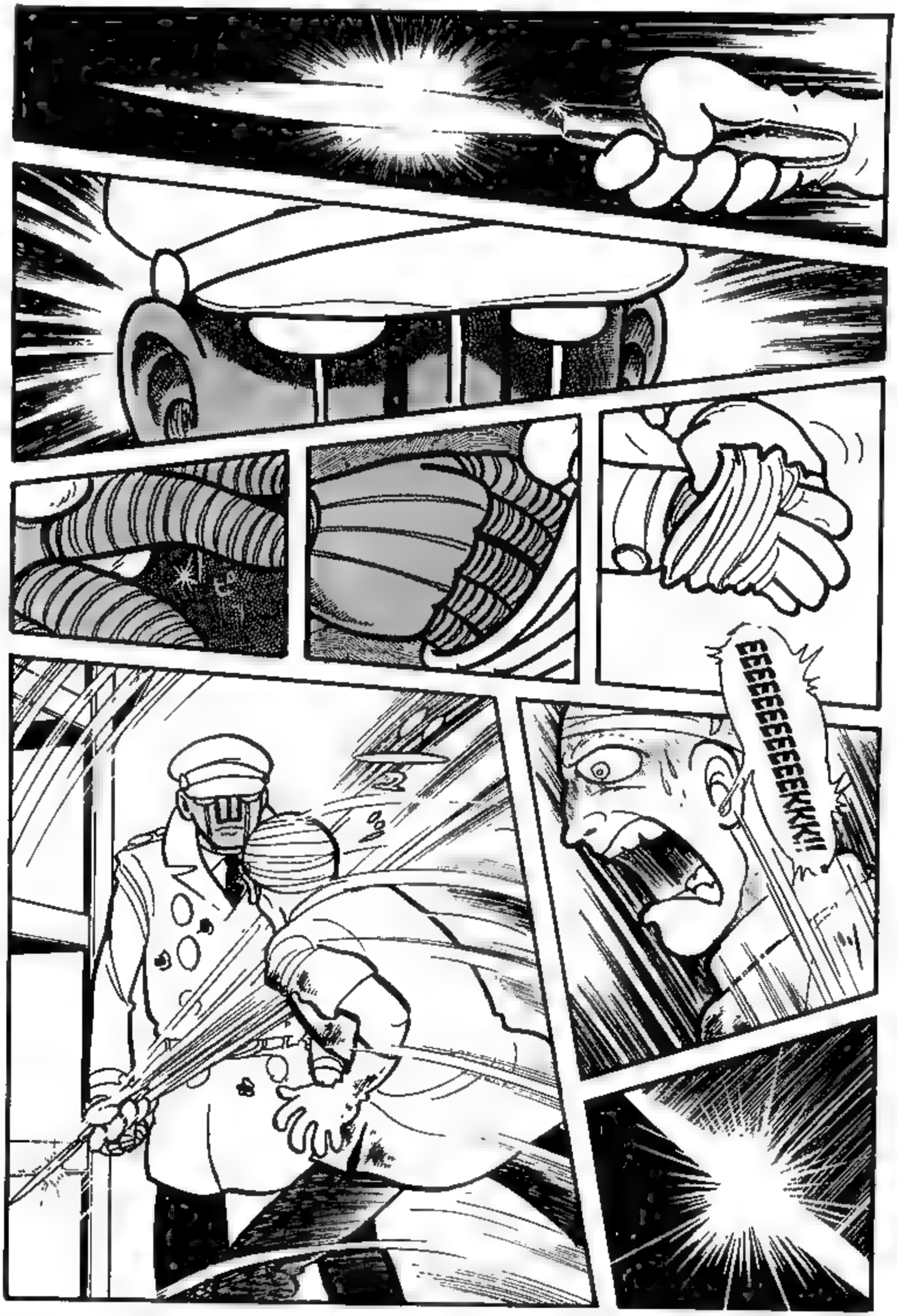
ナニ…

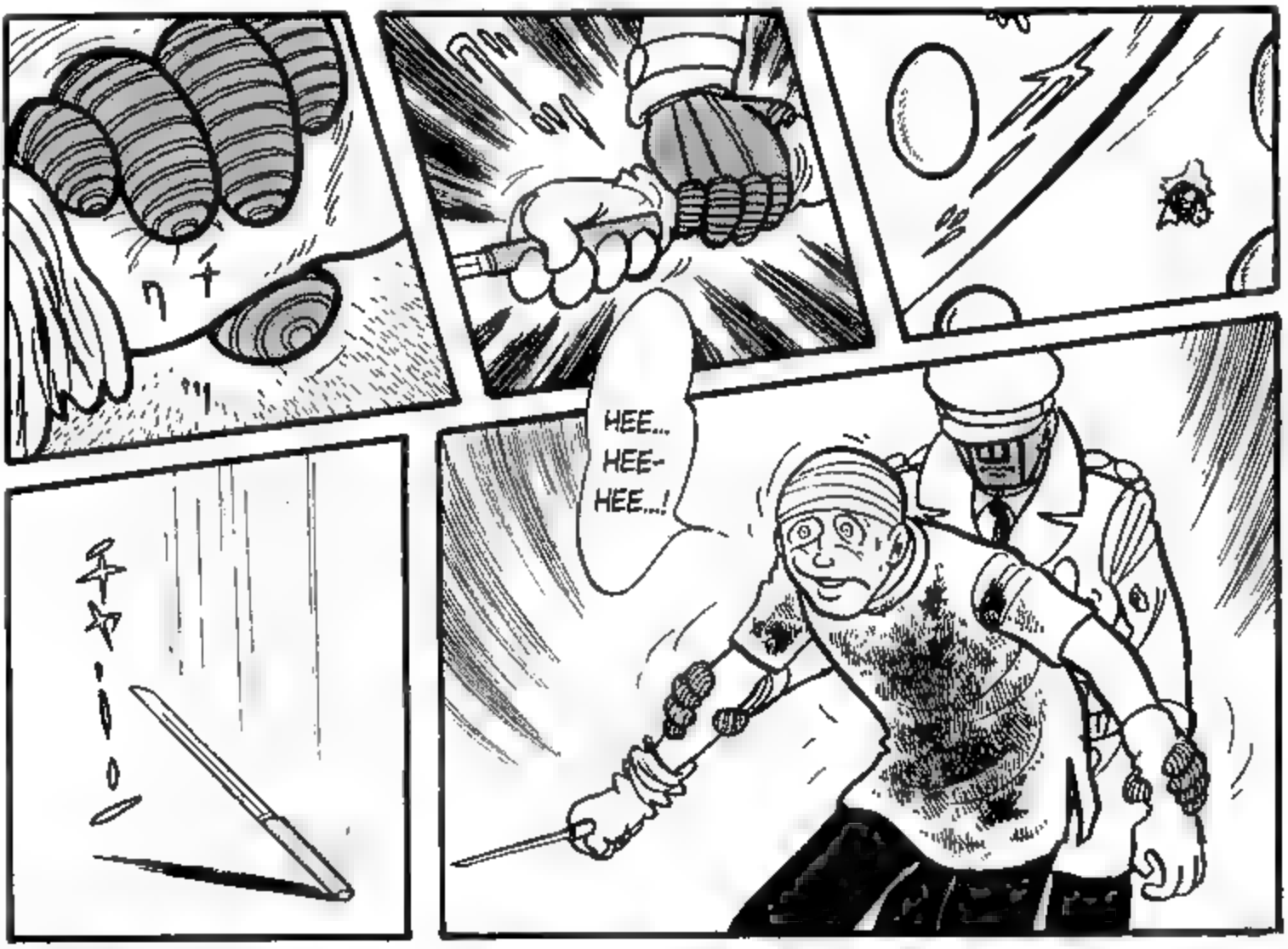
198

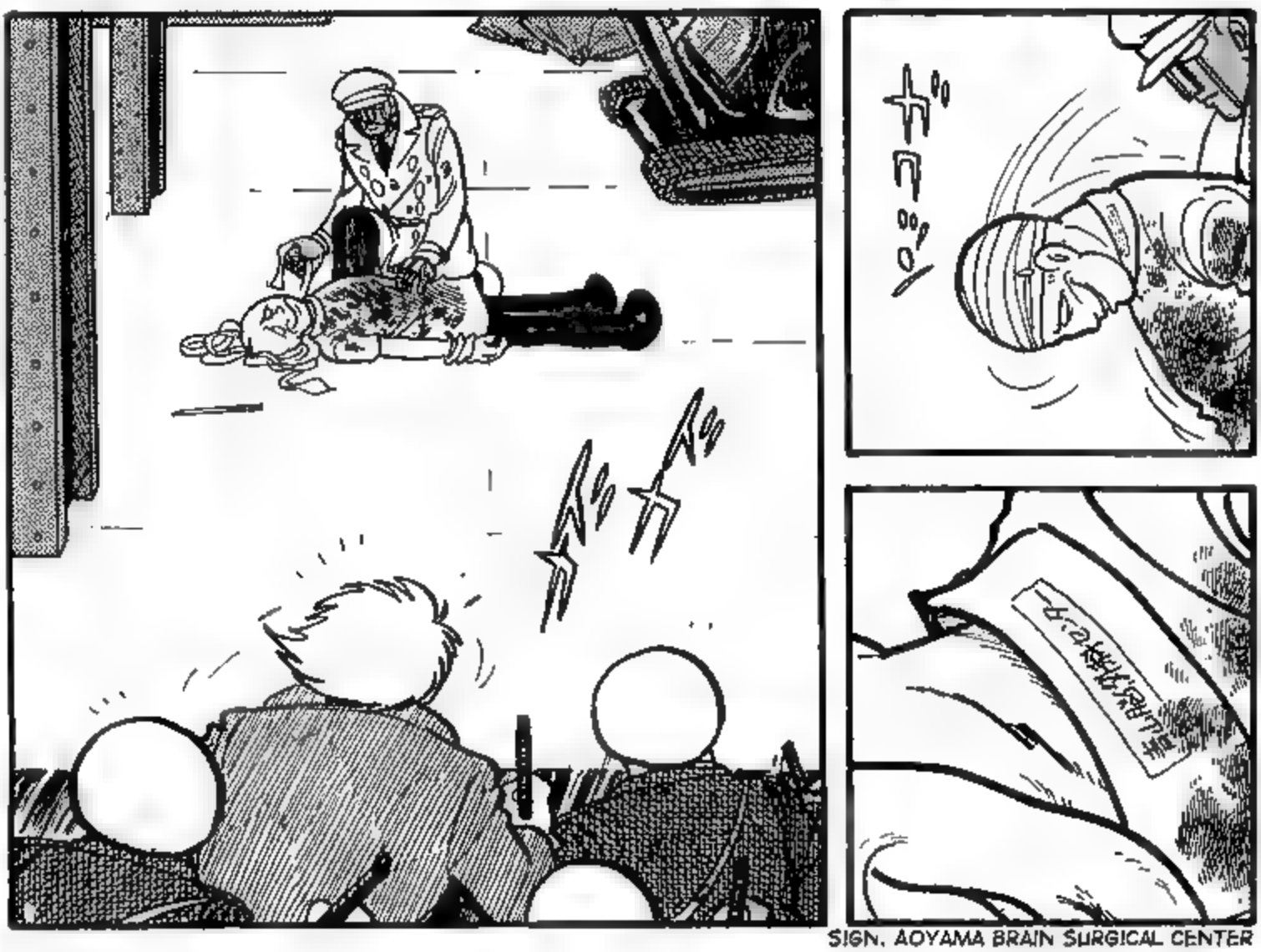
KEH...

RGH ....!!

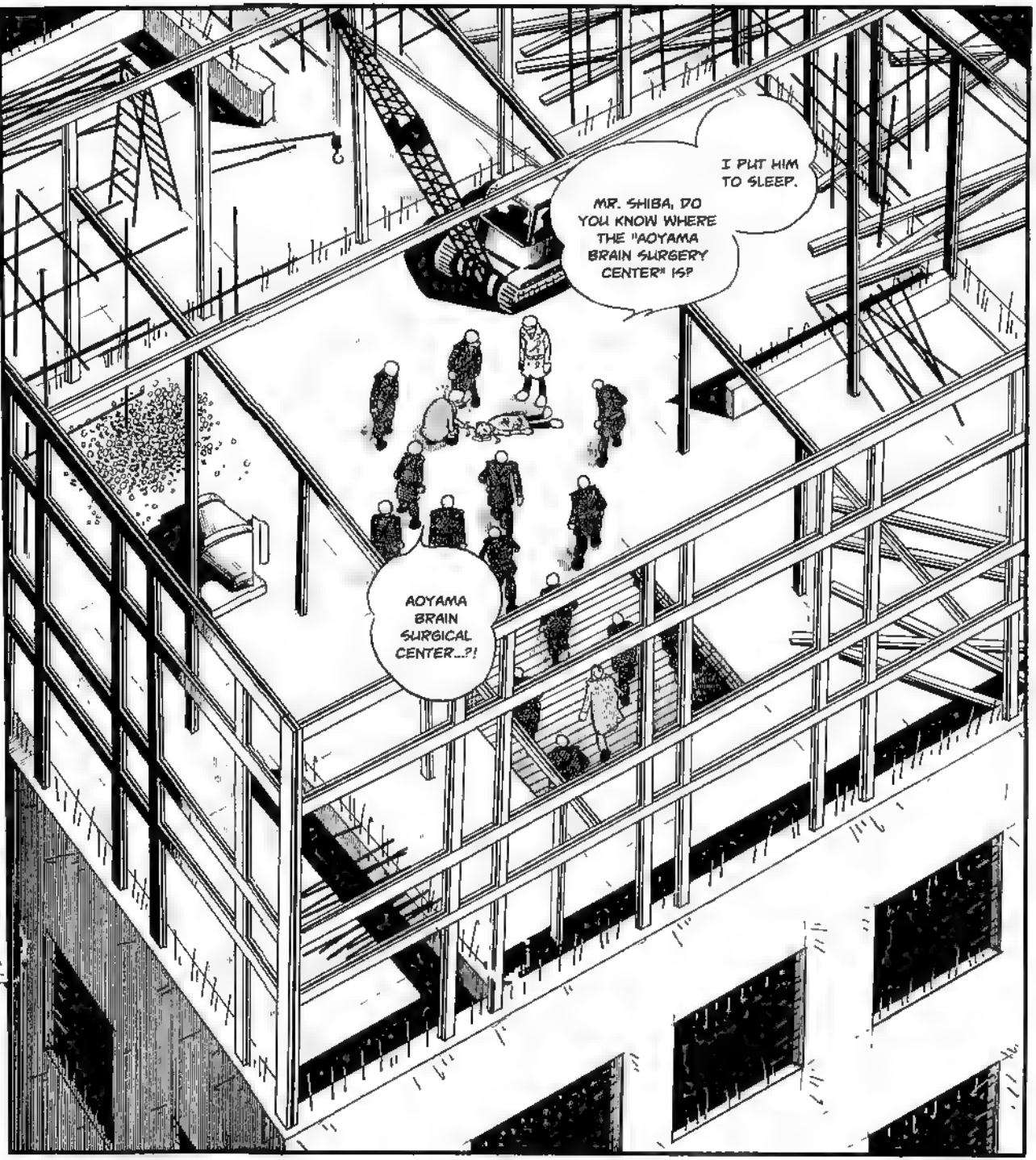
HEE... HEE- HEE...


EEEEEEEEEEEKKK!!


HEE...
HEE-
HEE...!


SIGN. AOYAMA BRAIN SURGICAL CENTER

[SIGN] AOYAMA BRAIN SURGICAL CENTER



A... ABOUT 3 DAYS AGO... THIS PATIENT ESCAPED FROM THE BUILDING...
WHY DID YOU NOT REPORT THIS IMMEDIATELY?!
...AND HE TOOK A SURGICAL SUIT AND SCALPEL WITH HIM...?!
WELL, I.. WE... W-WE DIDN'T REALLY THINK... IT DESERVED... TO BE... REPORTED...
I'LL ASK AGAIN: WHY?!
DID YOU NOT FEEL THE LEAST BIT GUILTY FOR THIS PATIENT'S ESCAPE?!
THAT'S NOT POS-SIBLE!
THAT.. THAT'S NOT...!!

YES, YOU... I BELIEVE YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR OF THIS FINE ESTABLISH-MENT?

.....

ACCORDING TO WHAT I'VE HEARD, THE BRAIN OF THIS MAN...

WAS FOUND TO HAVE A RATHER STRANGE MECHANISM...

EMBEDDED WITHIN IT. IS THAT NOT CORRECT?!

IT... IT WAS A MISTAKE!

THAT MAN WAS IN THE SECOND STAGE FOR PATIENTS...

HE HAD DEVELOPED A RESISTANCE TO OUR MEDICINE, CAUSING HIM TO HAVE SPASMS WHEN HE WENT THROUGH ANY SORT OF EXERCISE. SO FROM THERE...

TO MOVE HIM ONTO THE 3RD STAGE, WE ADMINISTERED A SURGICAL PROCEDURE.
IT WAS THE TREATMENT TO CORRECT HIS LIMBIC SYSTEM, CORRECT?
BUT THAT MECHANISM THAT YOU LOADED INTO HIS TONSILS...
WAS NEVER DISCUSSED IN ANY BRAIN SURGERY PUBLICATIONS.
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU WERE EXPERIMENTING WITH SOME NEW PROCEDURE.
6Y-OH!!
J-J-JUST W-WHO ARE Y-YOU...?!
WHO HE IS DOESN'T MATTER!
WHAT WE'RE GETTING TO...
WASN'T AT ALL DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT!
THE LOT OF YOU WERE USING THIS MAN... THIS PATIENT, FOR YOUR STUDIES...
IT WAS HUMAN EXPERI-MENTA-TION!!
AND IT FAILED!!

AND THEN, IN A FIT OF INSANITY, HE KILLED EVERY MAN AND WOMAN THAT CROSSED HIS PATH, INCLUDING THE PROPRIETOR OF A GUN STORE, AND METICULOUSLY SLICED THEM TO RIBBONS!!

HE STOLE A SCALPEL FROM A SURGICAL ROOM...

AND AS A RESULT, THAT MAN'S AILMENT GRADUALLY GREW WORSE AND WORSE... UNTIL HE BECAME UNCONTROLLABLE AND ESCAPED!!

THIS KIND OF HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION IS IMMORAL... AND NATURALLY, ILLEGAL! SO TO AVOID THIS GETTING OUT..

YOU DIDN'T BOTHER REPORTING THE ESCAPED PATIENT... AND ALSO HIRED A HITMAN TO WIPE THAT MAN OFF THE EARTH!!

YOU... YOU'RE WRONG...

THAT'S ALL WRONG...

AREN'T THOSE MONSTERS JUST ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE OF YOUR SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT?!

SO, TELL ME... THIS HITMAN AGENCY... WHAT IS THIS ROBOT HITMAN AGENCY?!

I'M ABSOLUTELY RIGHT !!

BOT...?!
RO...
H-HE CONTACTED US... HE KNEW ALL ABOUT OUR STUDIES, HERE... AND THREATENED US...!!
"IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE BAD IF THE WORLD KNEW ABOUT THIS, WOULDN'T IT?"
I-IT WAS SHORTLY AFTER OUR PATIENT KILLED HIS FIRST VICTIM...
TH... THIS STRANGE MAN... DID IT...!
"THE PATIENTS AT YOUR SURGICAL CENTER... ARE ALL LINKED UP BY COMPUTER. YOU ARE STUDYING WAYS TO CREATE MECHANICALLY ENHANCED HUMANS, AREN'T YOU?"
HE KNEW ALL ABOUT WHAT WE'D DONE!!
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID...!
D...DI-RECTOR!!
IT'S BETTER IF I JUST... LET THEM KNOW THE WHOLE STORY...!!
THEY'VE DISCOV-ERED EVERY-THING!!
IT.. IT'S NO USE!!

WE THOUGHT WE WERE DOING GOOD FOR DISEASED PATIENTS... FOR SURGICAL SCIENCE ALL OVER THE NATION!!

YES! W-WE DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE DOING ANYTHING UNLAWFUL, HERE...!!

MR. DIRECTOR, YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING ELSE, WEREN'T YOU?

AND THEN HE SAID, "I WILL ENSURE THAT NOT A SPECK OF EVIDENCE IS LEFT OF THAT MURDEROUS FIEND"...

SO I HAD NO CHOICE

WELL, YES, UM... THAT MAN SAID HE WANTED...

10 MILLION YEN FROM US...!!

AND LEFT IT AT THAT!

SO AFTER YOU PAID THE 10 MILLION YEN... HE WOULD SEND A ROBOT HITMAN TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK, AND EVERYONE WOULD BE HAPPY...

HMMM... I SEE!

BUT... WELL...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT MAN...

DID SAY, "WE ARE CALLED THE 'R.R.A.'..."

-GH?!

I NEVER IMAGINED HE COULD HAVE A ROBOT..

R-ROBOT.. COULD IT BE...?

DID HE GET SO EXCITED THAT HE HAD A HEART ATTACK...?!

HE... HE'S DEAD!!

DIREC-TOR?!

NO YOU DON'T!!

K!!

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

AN... ESE... FLY...?

THIS IS A ROBOT FLY!

THIS TSETSE FLY HAS ABOUT 10% OF ITS BODY FILLED WITH POISON THAT IT INJECTED THROUGH ITS STINGER...

...THIS WAS PROBABLY SENT OUT TO TRY AND STOP THE DIRECTOR FROM TELLING US ABOUT THE "R.R.A."!

AND I BET YOU KNOW WHAT THAT STANDS FOR, TOO?

R.R.A, HUH...

NO, I BUT IF I COULD DON'T. SPECULATE ABOUT WHAT R.R.A. STANDS FOR, I'D HAZARD A GUESS THAT IT MEANS...

"ROBOT RENTAL ASSOCI-ATION"!

ROBOT RENTAL... ASSOCI-ATION...?!

BOTH OF YOU WERE FIRING YOUR FALSE ACCUSATIONS LEFT AND RIGHT...

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!

THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM STARTED TO SCREAM AT US!

...AND RIGHT THEN,

...YOU KILLED THE DIREC-TOR!!

SO BE QUIET!!

...NOW, IT'S MY TURN TO SPEAK...

A HEART ATTACK ...?!

MY FALSE ACCUSA-TIONS...?

JUST SHUT YOUR TRAPS !!

HE WAS POISONED!!

TAKE A LOOK AT HIM, AND I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND A CLEAR INJECTION POINT LEFT OVER FROM A NEEDLE!!

HMPH!!

YOU REALLY THINK HE DIED JUST BECAUSE I WAS TREATING YOU LIKE THE CULPRITS?!

...IT'S TRUE, THE DIRECTOR WAS KILLED, JUST NOW!

BUT THE ONES WHO KILLED HIM...

WERE THE PEOPLE THE DIRECTOR CONSULTED WITH... THIS "ROBOT HITMAN ORGANIZATION"!!

THAT GROUP DIDN'T WANT THE DIRECTOR TO REVEAL ANY MORE OF THEIR SECRETS, SO THEY ELIMINATED HIM!!

HMPH. YOU UNDER-STAND, NOW?

IT... IT'S TRUE...!!

THERE'S A RED BUMP ON THE BACK OF HIS NECK!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES DOCTORS?!

PHEH! YOU COULDN'T TELL IF IT WAS DEATH BY HEART ATTACK OR POISONING...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SUCH A BUNCH OF NOVICES...

THAT YOU DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG WITH PRYING A MAN'S HEAD OPEN!!

BUT YOUR BIGGEST MISTAKE WAS BIRTHING THIS MONSTER WHO KILLED 4 INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN IN COLD BLOOD!!

RIGHT NOW, THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU... WERE MAKING A HUGE UPROAR ABOUT THE DEATH OF YOUR DIRECTOR...

USING THIS MAN TO DO IT... IS THE SAME THING AS IF YOU'D GONE AND KILLED THE 4 OF THEM, YOURSELVES!!

...NO, IF YOU COUNT THE MAN WHO JUST DIED, IT MAKES 5 PEOPLE!

YOU TAMPERED WITH THIS MAN'S BRAIN TISSUE AGAINST HIS WILL!!

MESSING WITH HIS BRAIN THAT MUCH IS THE SAME AS KILLING HIM!!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE HORRIBLY INEXPERIENCED DOCTORS, OR UNTRAINED OFFICE WORKERS... EVEN PSYCHOPATHS CAN PLACE VALUE ON HUMAN LIFE!!

YOU SAY IT'S ALL FOR THE GOOD OF SCIENCE...

THAT IT'S TO ADVANCE MANKIND IN THE FUTURE... THAT'S WHAT YOU LIKE TO LABEL YOUR ACTIONS WITH... BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT IT'S FOR YOUR OWN DAMN INTERESTS, ISN'T IT?! THAT YOU WANT YOUR NAMES ON THE HISTORY BOOKS!!

... HMPH!

HOW DID YOU FIGURE OUT THAT THE DIRECTOR HAD BEEN POISONED...?

AH, BY THE WAY, MR. SHIBA...

HEH... HEH...

I WAS MOVED LIKE I HADN'T BEEN IN A LONG TIME!

WHEN I HEARD MR SHIBA'S CAUSTIC COMMENTS BACK THEN...

MY, I HAVE TO SAY ...

UH... AH, WELL...

IT... THAT WAS...

HMM? OH, HIM?

IS THAT RIGHT...

MY PARTNER DISCOV-ERED IT...

...IT WASN'T ACTU-ALLY ME...

...

IS THAT HE'S WEARING THAT MASK TO HIDE SOME SERIOUS BURNS ON HIS FACE... A DETECTIVE THAT RETIRED BEFORE BUT CAME BACK TO WORK... IS THAT TRUE?

THE RUMOR THAT'S BEEN GOING AROUND ...

JUST... WHO IS HE, ANYWAY...?

ROBOTS...

THE R.R.A.!

I'D LIKE A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION FORCE OF DETECTIVES TO BE ASSEMBLED.

CONSIDERING THAT THIS CASE SEEMS TO REVOLVE AROUND ROBOTS...

BUT ANYWAY...

DUE TO CERTAIN ISSUES, I CAN'T GIVE YOU HIS NAME, THOUGH.

...YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

TO BE HONEST, EVEN NOW...

I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT!

TO THINK THERE'S EVEN A GROUP WHERE YOU CAN RENT ROBOTS TO DO CRIMES...!

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

I'M... THE SAME WAY...

JUST A BIT AGO.

HE WENT TO MY HOUSE...

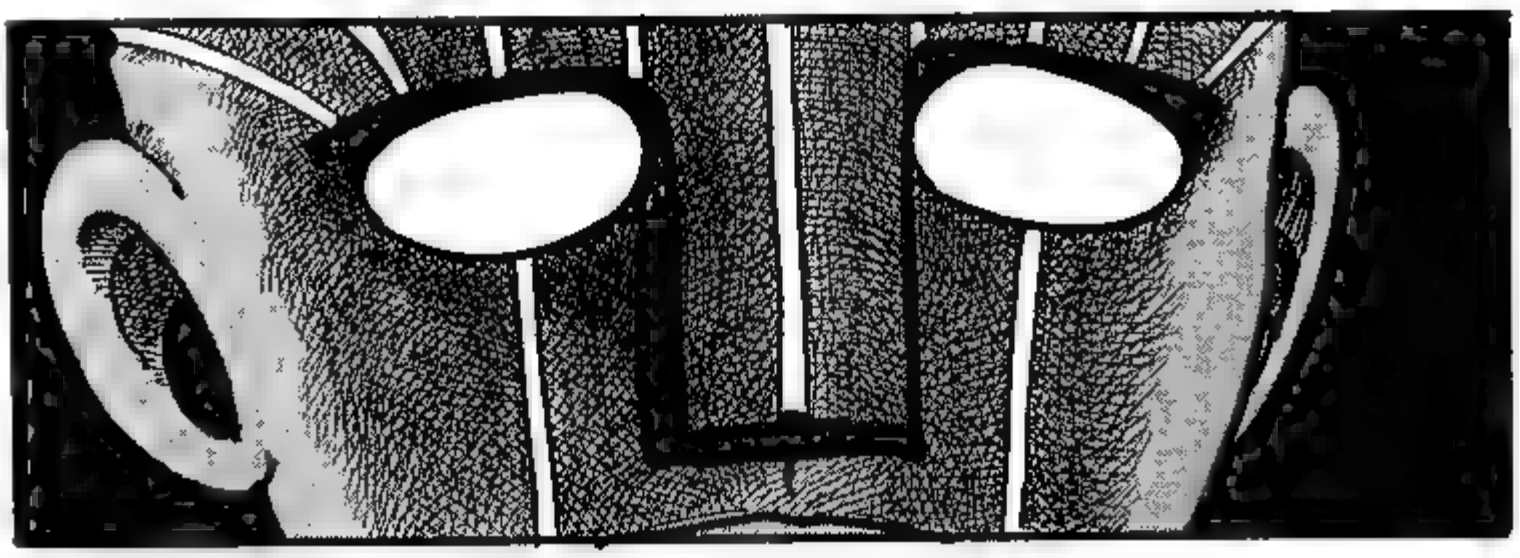
SHIBA-KUN... WHERE IS *HE*, NOW?

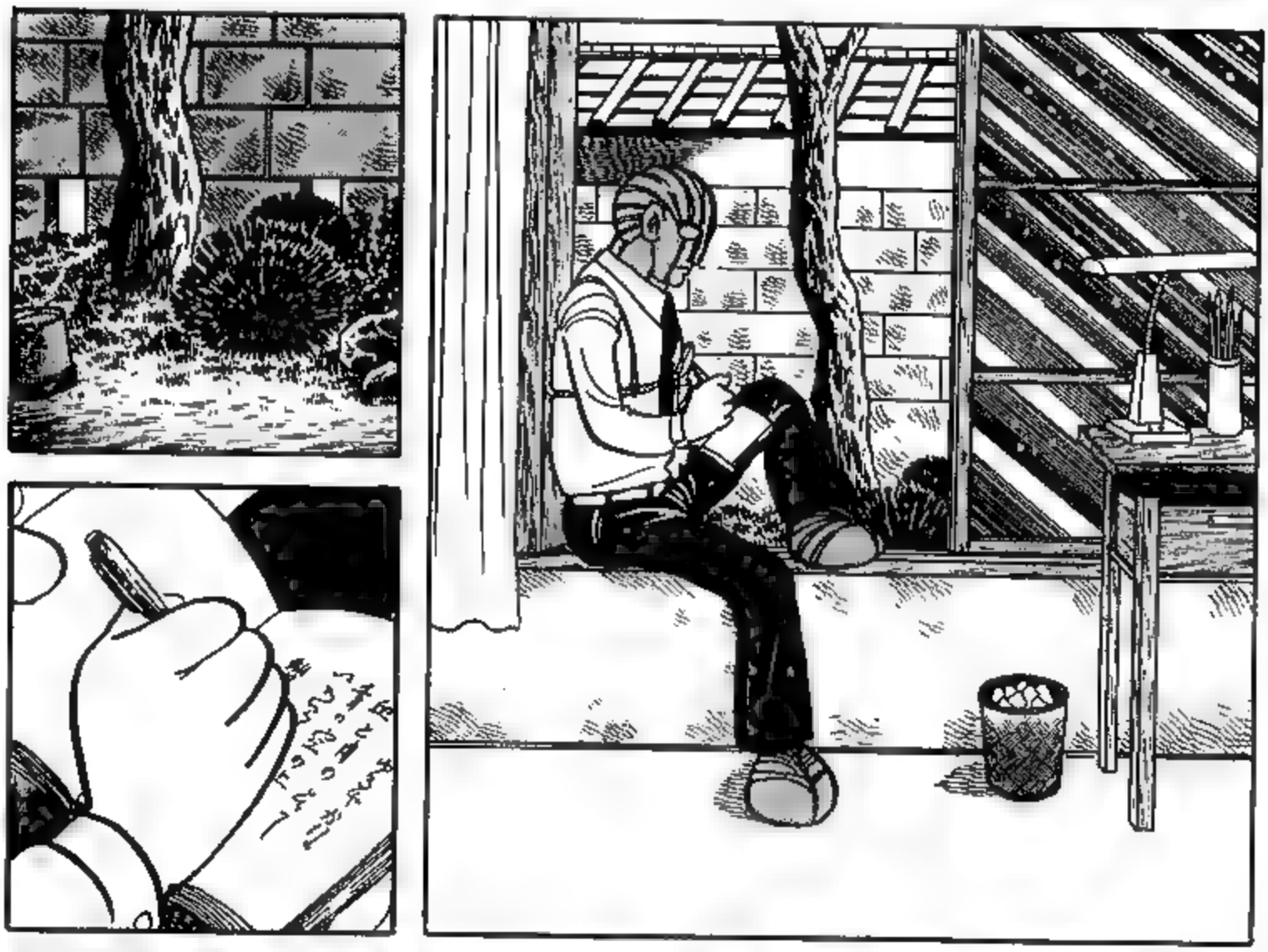
HMPH. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM...

BUT WHENEVER I SEE THAT EMOTIONLESS METAL FACE OF HIS...

I WANT TO THROW UP!!

IT SEEMS YOU TWO ARE GETTING ALONG NOW, TO ME!




GO AHEAD,
YUMI-SAN
..HEY, K..
CAN I COME IN?

T/N: THE WORD K USES FOR POEM IS "SHI", WHICH CAN MEAN A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS, WHICH IS WHY YUMI ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION

I WAS... WRITING A POEM.

HEY, WHATCHA BEEN DOING?

OKAY, GREAT!

[SFX] AAA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

IS... IS THAT FUNNY?

YOU MEAN, LIKE... A POEM ...?

A "ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE" KINDA THING?!

YES.

AH... UM, SORRY ...

...

YOU, A ROBOT... WRITING A POEM?!

AH-HAH-HAH... IT... IT'S JUST..

THAT IS WHAT MY MOTHER SAID TO ME.

I MUST READ LITERATURE WRITTEN BY HUMANS AND WRITE MY OWN POEMS...

THAT IN ORDER TO SYMPATHISE WITH HUMANS AND MASTER HUMAN EMOTIONS... FEELINGS...

IT IS BECAUSE I AM A ROBOT...

NO, I DO NOT MIND.

OH...

THE PERSON WHO CREATED YOU, RIGHT?

I SEE!

"MOTHER"?

YOU HAVE A MOM, K?!

I... I CANNOT... NOT YET...

IT'S NOT TO A LEVEL WHERE I CAN LET PEOPLE READ IT...

SHOW ME THE POEM YOU WROTE! OKAY?

HEY! LEMME SEE IT!

WHOA! THAT'S WEIRD!

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BE SHY, BEFORE!

YUMI

NO... YOU CANNOT!

I'VE GOTTA SEE IT, NOW!!

LEMME SEE!

LEMME SEE!

WEL-COME HOME, NAMI-SAN...

K'S BEEN DOING SOMETHING STRANGE!

COME LOOK!

OH, HEY, SIS! WELCOME BACK!

DON'T BE A HINDR-ANCE, YUMI!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?

MR. SHIBA!

...

AND HE'S TOO EMBARRASSED TO SHOW IT TO ANY HUMANS, YET!

SO, LIKE, HE SAID HE'S BEEN WRITING A POEM!

HOW'S EVERYONE DOING?

SORRY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN IN A WHILE...

WELL! IF IT ISN'T SHINJO!

SO, THEN... SHINJO...

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN MEETING WITH NAMI LATELY, HAVE YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVEN'T... I'VE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN A MAJOR CASE.

HEH HEH

NOT "EVERYONE"... YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT NAMI, DON'T YOU?

...I'M NO MATCH FOR YOU, AS USUAL!

A... WHAT, NOW?

IT'S LIKE IT'S A CASE RIGHT OUT OF SOME MYSTERY NOVEL...

A MURDER IN A SECURED ROOM... THAT WAS WARNED ABOUT AHEAD OF TIME.

OHH...?

IT WAS A FAMILY WITH A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY..

THEY RECEIVED A THREATENING LETTER THAT TOLD THEM ALL OF THEM WOULD BE KILLED ..

THEY REPORTED IT STRAIGHT AWAY, SO WE HAD MEN AT THE HOUSE... BUT WHEN THE NIGHT WAS OVER, ONE OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS HAD BEEN KILLED!!

EVEN THOUGH WE LEFT NOT A CRACK UNSUPERVISED, THEY MANAGED TO CRAWL INTO THAT ROOM!!

IT'S THINGS LIKE THIS THAT MAKE KEEPING A NORMAL LIFE AS A COP SO IMPOSSIBLE... DAMMIT!!

I REALLY DO...

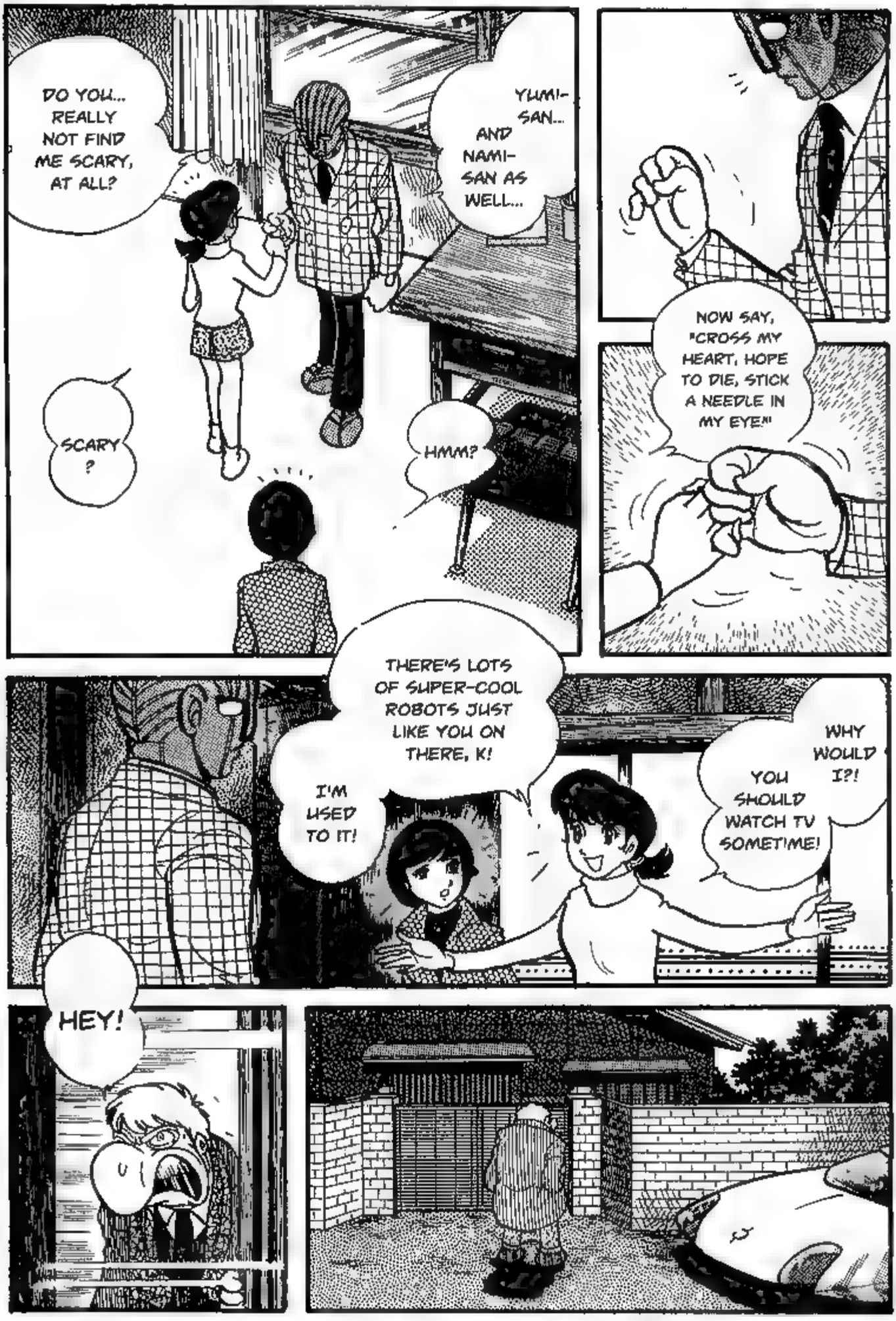
MISS THE DAYS WHEN I WAS PARTNERED WITH YOU...

I'M SERIOUS!

PROMISE ME, RIGHT NOW... THAT YOU'LL LET ME SEE ONE OF YOUR POEMS!

I WILL.

PINKY SWEAR!


DO YOU... REALLY NOT FIND ME SCARY, AT ALL?
YUMI-SAN... AND NAMI-SAN AS WELL...
SCARY ?
HMM?
NOW SAY, "CROSS MY HEART, HOPE TO DIE, STICK A NEEDLE IN MY EYE!"
THERE'S LOTS OF SUPER-COOL ROBOTS JUST LIKE YOU ON THERE, K!
I'M USED TO IT!
WHY WOULD I?!
YOU SHOULD WATCH TV SOMETIME!
HEY!

WELCOME HOME, SIR.

AH, FATHER!

WELCOME BACK!

...MR SHIBA, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

.....

K!!

GET READY TO LEAVE, THIS INSTANT!

WHAT ABOUT DINNER...?

HUH? BUT IT'S ALREADY NIGHT!

BUT, SIR...

...WHERE ARE WE GOING, YOU SAID?

DON'T PLAY DUMB!! WE'RE GOING TO MEET WITH THIS "MOTHER" OF YOURS!!

STOP STAYING MY NAME WHENEVER YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME! I DON'T WANNA HEAR MY NAME COMING OUT FROM BEHIND THAT METAL MASK OF YOURS!!

I'LL ADMIT, THE CULPRIT OF THE DISMEMBERMENT CASES WAS EXACTLY WHO YOU SAID IT WOULD BE!

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO ME ANY MORE... ARE YOU?!

THAT BASTARD STILL HAD A MACHINE WIRED UP TO HIS BRAIN!

IT'S THE SAME THING AS A ROBOT!!

DON'T GET A BIG HEAD!!

BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE EXACTLY RIGHT ONE TIME...

IN OTHER WORDS... THE SAME THING AS YOU... THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE IN THAT YOU'RE BOTH THE PRODUCTS OF SCIENCE!!

FURTHERMORE, THIS "R.R.A." ORGANIZATION'S VERY EXISTENCE IS CLEARLY EVEN WORSE THAN THAT!

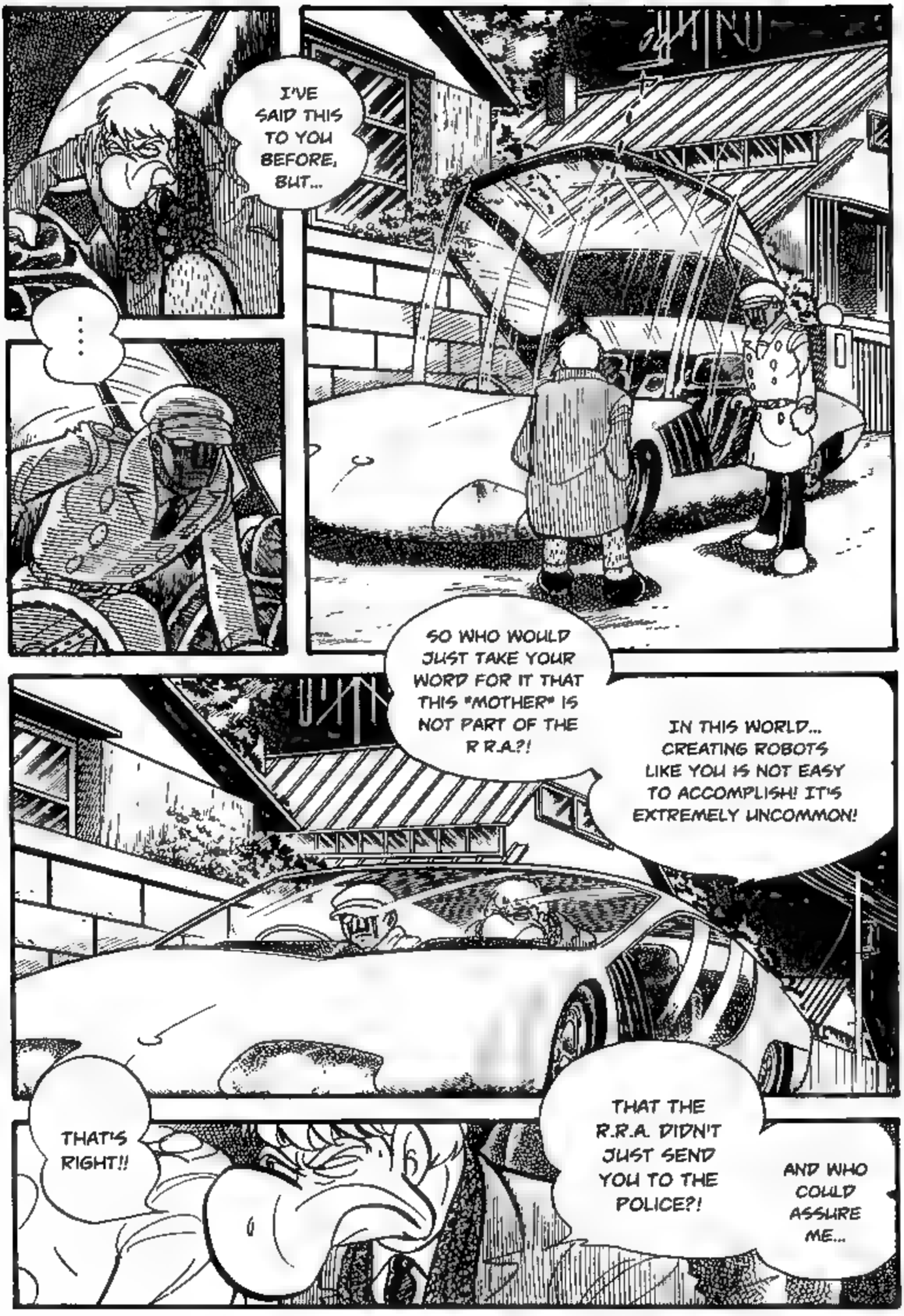
SO LETTING YOU...

LETTING YOU AND THIS "MOTHER" JUST GO AND DO WHAT YOU LIKE...

IS NOW IMPOS-SIBLE!

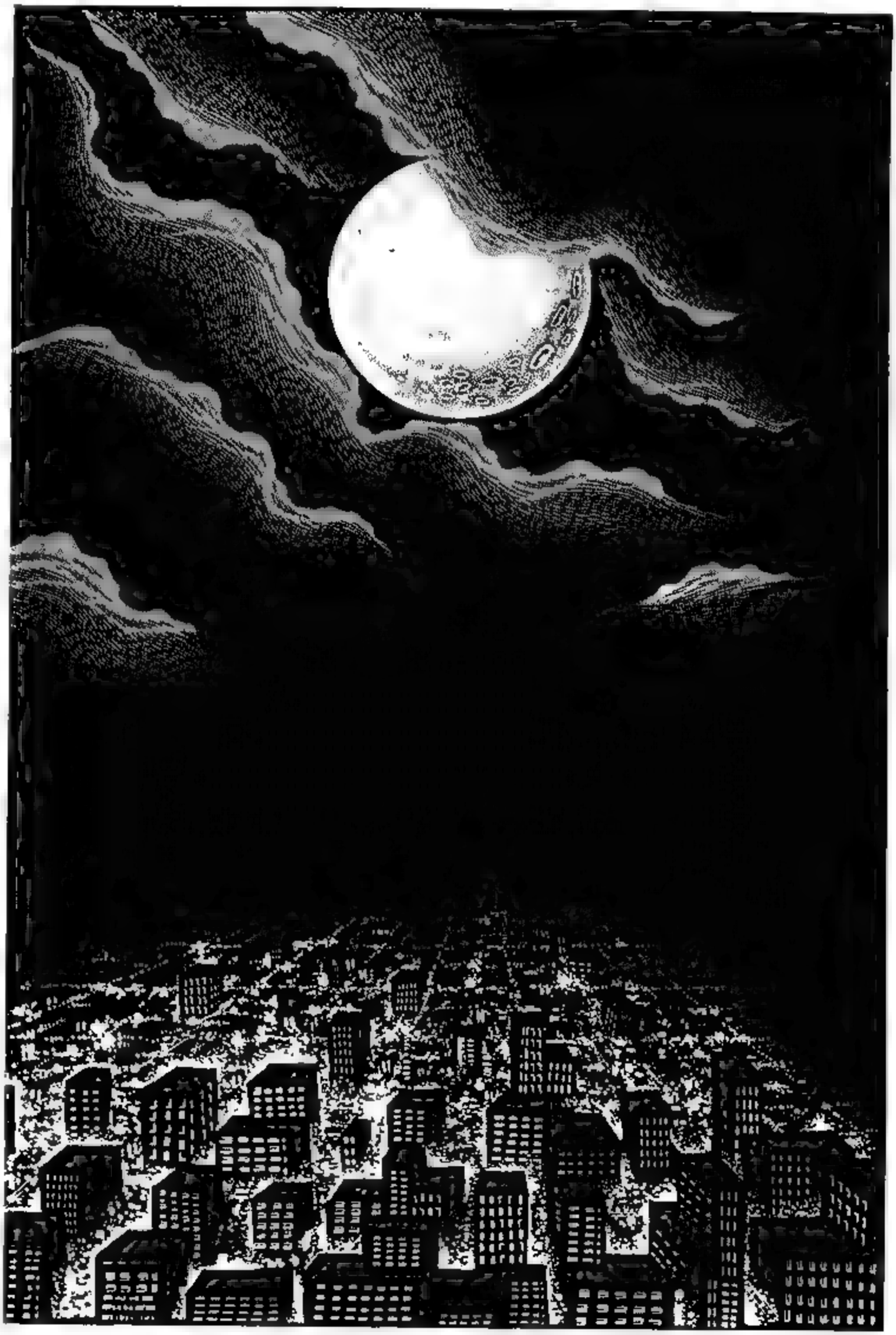
WELL?

ISN'T THAT RIGHT?!


I'VE SAID THIS TO YOU BEFORE, BUT...
.....
SO WHO WOULD JUST TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT THAT THIS "MOTHER" IS NOT PART OF THE R.R.A.?!
IN THIS WORLD... CREATING ROBOTS LIKE YOU IS NOT EASY TO ACCOMPLISH! IT'S EXTREMELY UNCOMMON!
THAT'S RIGHT!!
THAT THE R.R.A. DIDN'T JUST SEND YOU TO THE POLICE?!
AND WHO COULD ASSURE ME...

MEETING THIS "MOTHER" IS THE ONLY WAY TO DO IT!!

.....!!



THE MOON LOOKS PRETTY TONIGHT, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, MR SHIBA?

[SFX] HA-TCHOO! HA-TCHOOO! HAAT-CHOOOO!!

I-I-ID'S SO C-COLD...

I-I-I'DE GOT TO ENDURE... SUDHOW!

R-R-RODOTS DON' HABB ENNY S-SENSE OD P-PRETTINESS!!

Y-Y-YOU IDJIT !!

[SFX] SNRRRK!

I WILL TURN THE HEATER ON, RIGHT AWAY.

SO I ALWAYS FORGET ABOUT THAT.

I DO NOT EVER FEEL COLD...

OH, MY APOLO-GIES...

DAM-MIIIIIT!! YOU STUPID MACHINE!!

IF THIS IS YOUR WAY OF GETTING ME TO NOT MEET WITH YOUR MOTHER, JUST KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO FLY!!

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PLAY TRICKS ON ME WHILE WE'RE FLYING ALONG, HERE, I WILL HAVE NONE OF IT!!

L... LISTEN TO ME, K...

NOW IT'S WAY TOO HOTTTTTT!!!

BOTH OF MY DAUGHTERS AT THE HOUSE WERE... SAYING... THAT...

THEY SAID IT WAS STRANGE!

I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO MEET HER... YOUR RESISTANCE TO IT JUST MAKES ME WANT TO, EVEN MORE!

ARE YOU TRYING TO FUCK WITH ME?!

I... I AM SORRY...

..HEY, SIS...
YOU HEARD K WHEN HE ASKED US WHETHER WE WERE SCARED OF HIM, RIGHT?
THE TRUTH IS, I...
YES...?
I MEAN, HIS FACE MIGHT NOT MOVE AT ALL, BUT...
I DON'T THINK HE'S EVEN A BIT SCARY!

YOU THINK, "IF HE EVER BREAKS DOWN, WON'T HE START BEING VIOLENT...?"

SO WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT HOW HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY BLOOD OR FLESH OR BONES IN HIS BODY... THAT HE'S A MACHINE...

THE REST OF HIS BODY MOVES JUST LIKE A HUMAN'S!

SO IT'S THE SAME!

THINKING ABOUT IT EVEN MORE, HUMANS CAN GO INSANE, TOO, RIGHT?

BUT...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SIS?

BUT THAT ABILITY TO THINK AND MOVE MIGHT EXCEED THE ABILITY OF HUMAN BEINGS...

AND IT'S NOT THAT HE CAN THINK AND MOVE AROUND JUST LIKE A REAL PERSON, EITHER...

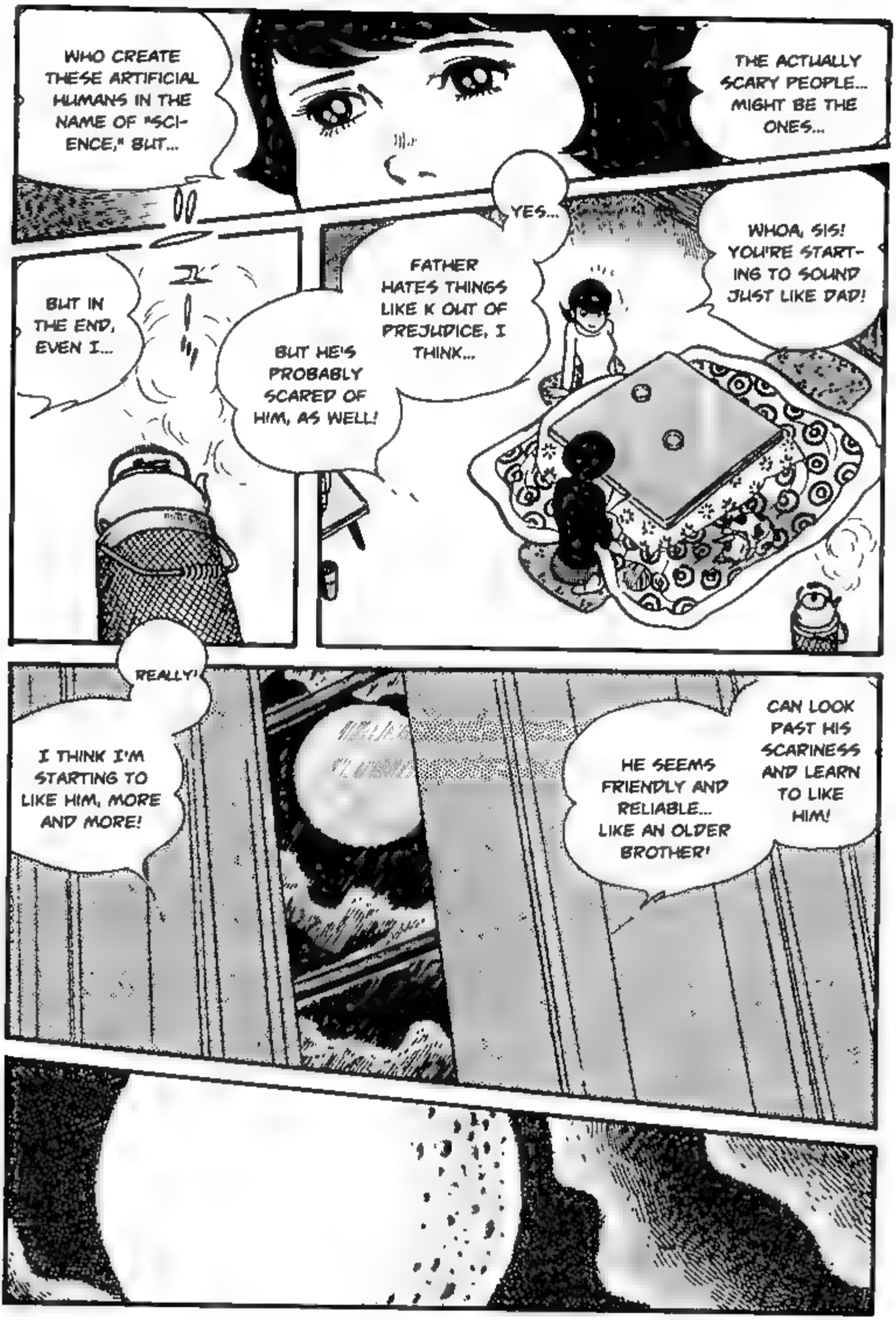
BUT... IT'S NOT HIS FACE THAT I FIND SO SCARY...

...HE'S FRIGHT-ENING!

BUT WHEN I PUT THAT TOGETHER WITH HIS BEING A ROBOT... AND HIS NOT ACTUALLY HAVING ANY FEELINGS... IT JUST SCARES ME!

AND HE ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD...

AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT THAT WHILE LOOKING AT K... EVEN THOUGH HIS MANNERS ARE PERFECT...


WHO CREATE THESE ARTIFICIAL HUMANS IN THE NAME OF "SCIENCE," BUT...
THE ACTUALLY SCARY PEOPLE... MIGHT BE THE ONES...
YES...
FATHER HATES THINGS LIKE K OUT OF PREJUDICE, I THINK...
WHOA, SIS! YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND JUST LIKE DAD!
BUT IN THE END, EVEN I...
BUT HE'S PROBABLY SCARED OF HIM, AS WELL!
REALLY!
I THINK I'M STARTING TO LIKE HIM, MORE AND MORE!
HE SEEMS FRIENDLY AND RELIABLE... LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER!
CAN LOOK PAST HIS SCARINESS AND LEARN TO LIKE HIM!

大里

YEAH...

GOOD WORK, TODAY!

HMM?

AH... IT'S YOU, TSUYOSHI.

IS NOW A GOOD TIME, SIR?

...

WE'VE ALREADY CHECKED EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THAT ROOM... WE EVEN TORE AWAY THE WALLS AND LOOKED BEHIND THEM!

...IT'S NOT GOING TO HELP! NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU STARE AT THE PLANS FOR THAT MANSION, IT'S THE SAME THING!

...

...HAS ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED?

NOT AT ALL... FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, THERE?

THAT'S JUST THE WAY THEY ARE...

OUR SIDE MUST SEEM PRETTY SUSPICIOUS TO THEM, AS WELL.

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE EYE-SORES!

...MORE THAN THAT, THOUGH, THAT CREEPY GROUP OF PEOPLE WANDERING AROUND THAT MANSION... WE'LL HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THEM, SOMEHOW!

YEAH, JUST IN CASE.

SERIOUSLY... IT TOOK SO MUCH TIME TO DO THAT!

DID YOU CHECK INTO EVERYONE'S BACKGROUND?

チカ

BUT, WELL... DIDN'T REALLY FIND ANYONE WHO SEEMED LIKE THEY'D KILL HIM.

I LEFT OUT ALL THE SECURITY GUARDS AND PEOPLE LIKE THAT, BUT... I CHECKED EVERY LAST ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO KNEW THE HEAD OF THAT HOUSEHOLD!

AFTER ALL, EVERYTHING THAT WAS PREDICTED A WEEK AGO CAME TRUE.

IT PROBABLY CAN'T BE HELPED

JUST BECAUSE WE COULDN'T STOP ONE KILLER, THEY'RE SAYING THEY CAN'T EVEN TRUST US!

STILL, IT REALLY TICKS ME OFF!

I MEAN, WHO WOULD SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THE KILLER WOULD COME WHEN THEY SAID THEY WOULD!

YEAH! THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD'VE DONE!

"ONE PERSON EACH WEEK"... BAH!

AND EVEN IF IT HAPPENS AGAIN, IT'LL BE THE SAME THING!

IS THAT RIGHT...

WHAT DID YOU TALK TO HIM ABOUT?

OH? YOU SAW SHIBA?

OH, YEAH! I MET UP WITH MR. SHIBA EARLIER TODAY!

HE WAS ALWAYS A STUBBORN OLD MAN, BUT... I'D REALLY LIKE TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE HIM AROUND, RIGHT NOW...

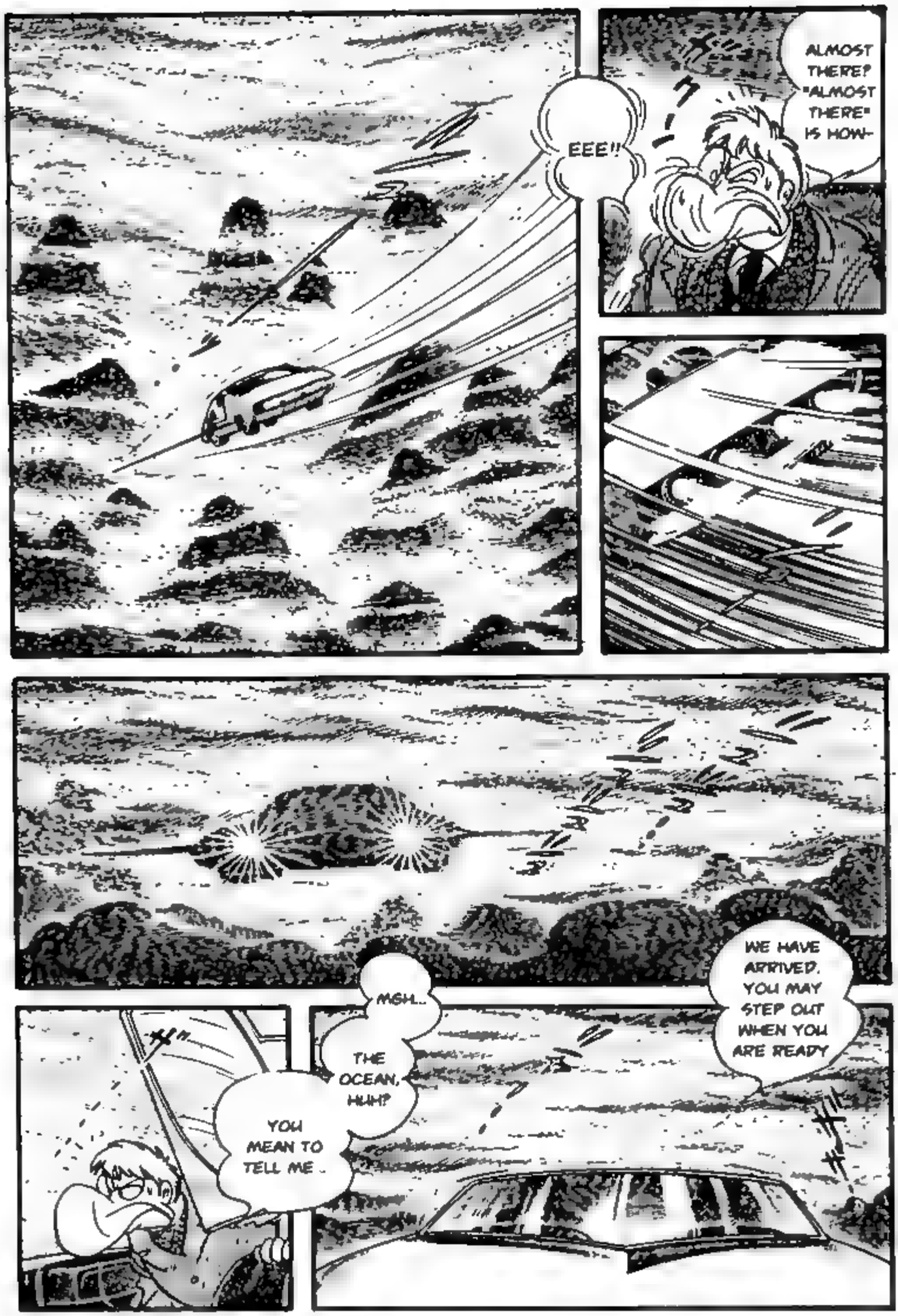
AH, YOU KNOW, ABOUT THIS CASE WE'RE WORKING ON... HOW I MISSED WORKING WITH HIM, STUFF LIKE THAT.

SHIBA, HMM...

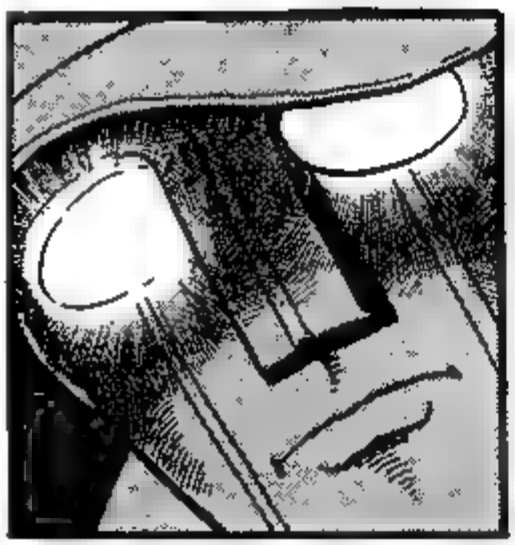
HEY, K! JUST HOW FAR AWAY IS THIS PLACE?!

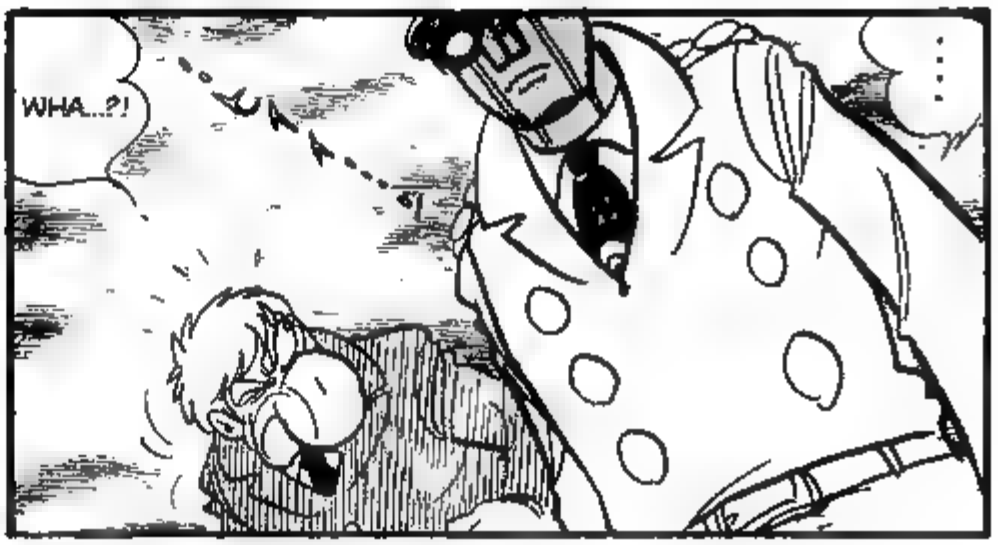
WHERE THE HECK ARE WE GOING, ANYWAY?

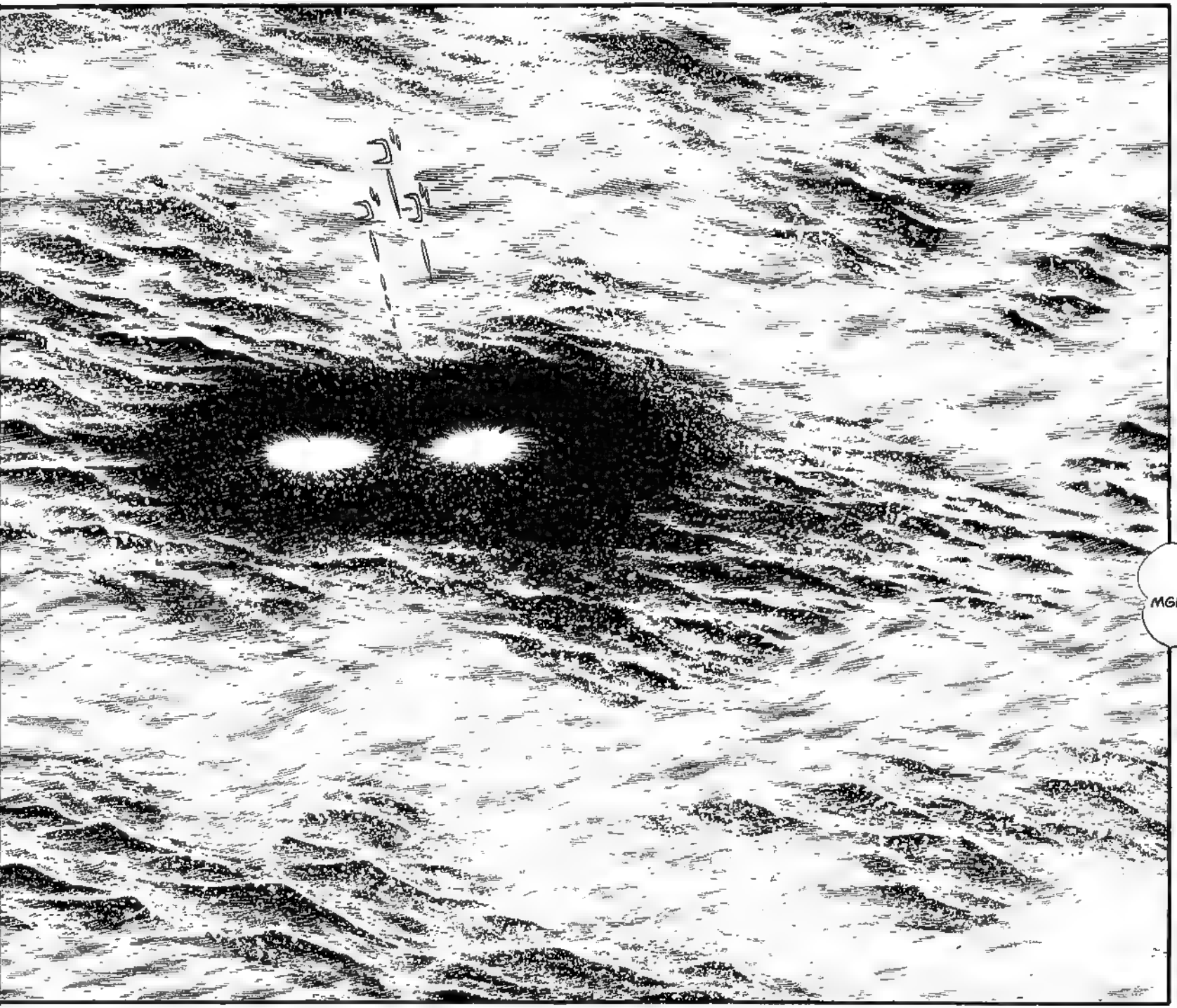
WE ARE ALMOST THERE.


EEE!!
ALMOST THERE? "ALMOST THERE" IS HOW-
WE HAVE ARRIVED. YOU MAY STEP OUT WHEN YOU ARE READY
MGH..
THE OCEAN, HUH?
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME..

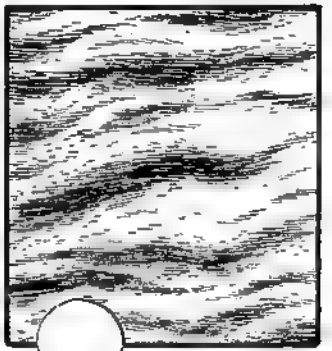
SOMEONE ACTUALLY LIVES HERE?!
HUH...? HEY!!



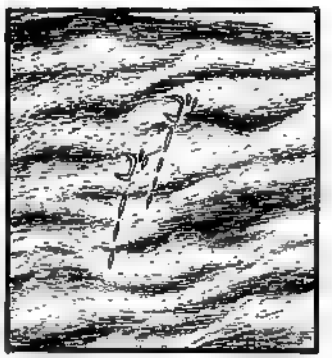

WHA...?!
.....



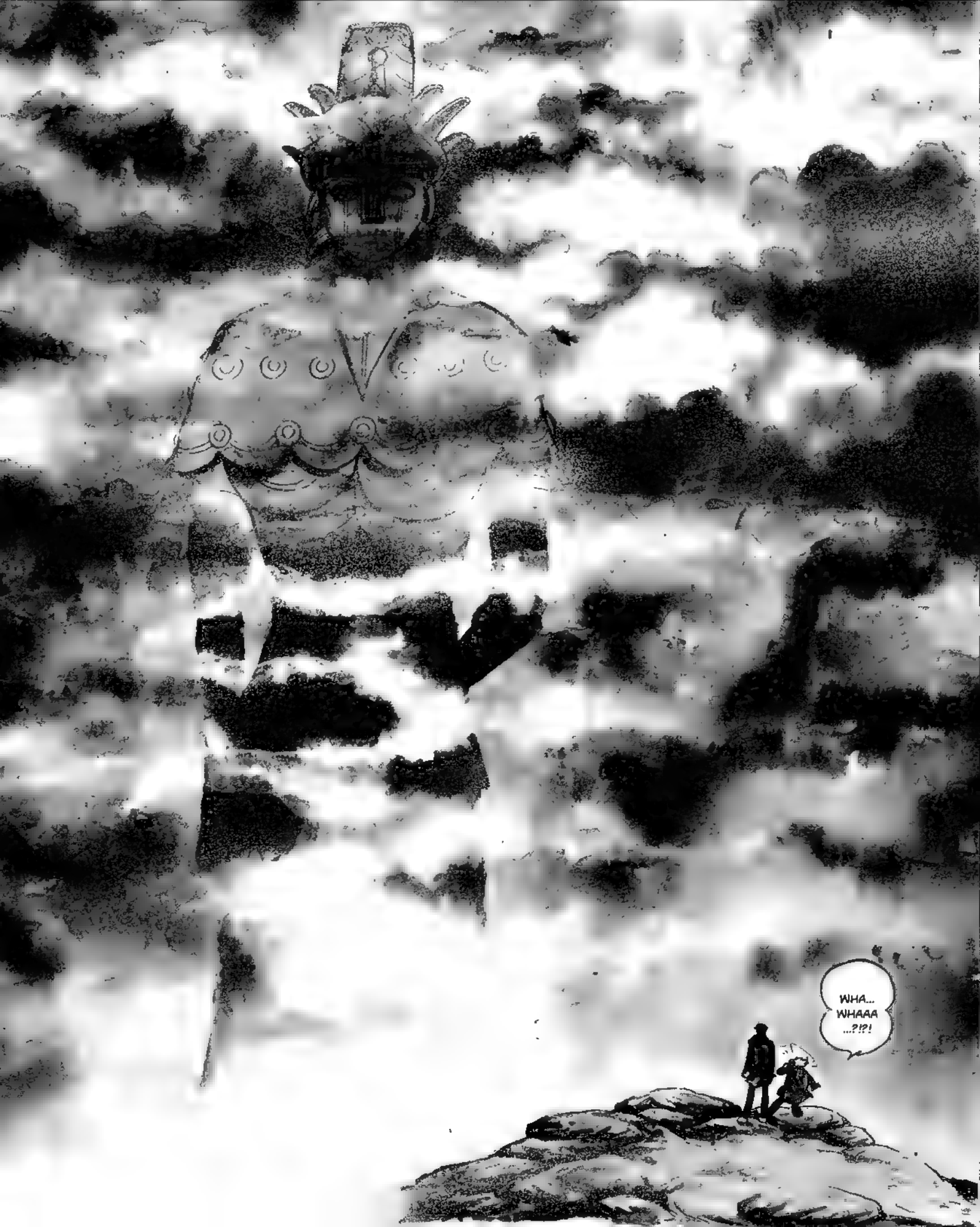
……
!?

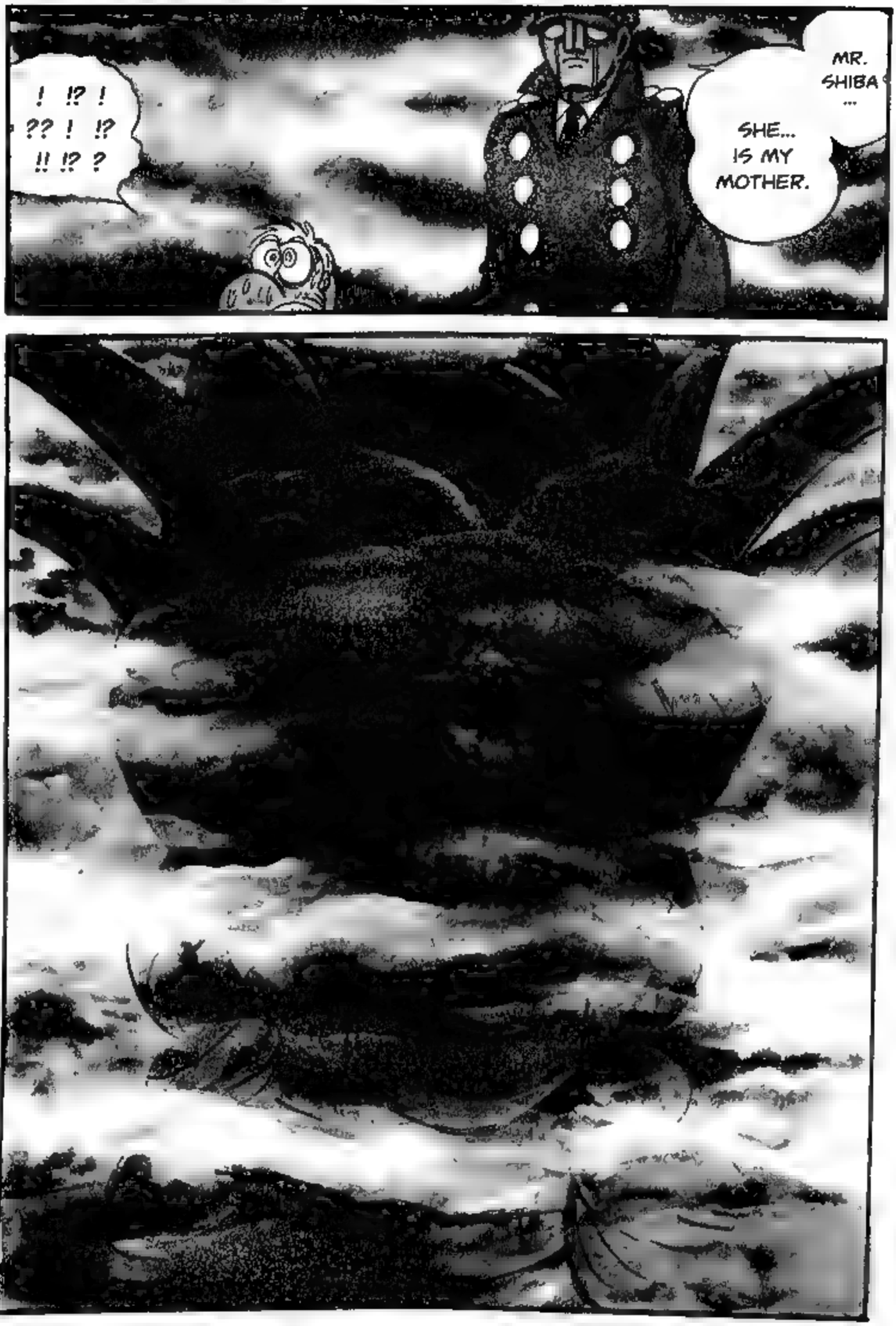


MMM
...?
MGH?!



ゴゴゴ


WHA...
WHAAA
...?!?!


! !? !
?? ! !?
!! !? ?
MR. SHIBA ...
SHE... IS MY MOTHER.

MOTHEEEEER!

BUT...

SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO MAKE IT SO HE HAD TO SEE YOU, HIMSELF

I AM SORRY TO BRING SOMEONE HERE SO SUD-DENLY WITHOUT LETTING YOU KNOW FIRST...

MR. SHIBA HERE HAD TO MEET WITH YOU, MOTHER, NO MATTER WHAT!

THIS MAN IS THE SENIOR POLICE OFFICER THAT I AM PARTNERED WITH... I TOLD YOU ABOUT HIM BEFORE, YOU REMEMBER?

THE CASE WE ARE WORKING ON INVOLVES THE "R.R.A."... AN ORGANIZATION WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO RENT ROBOTS!

THE TRUTH IS...

IF HE DID NOT MEET WITH YOU THIS ONCE, HE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO WORK WITH ME, ANY LONGER!

IN OTHER WORDS, HE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU THAT YOU ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE R.R.A.!

MR. SHIBA WISHES TO KNOW ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND THE R.R.A.!

THE REASON FOR THAT IS BECAUSE, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, COMPLEX ROBOTS SUCH AS ME ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THERE COULD BE MANY PEOPLE OR PLACES CAPABLE OF CREATING SUCH ROBOTS!

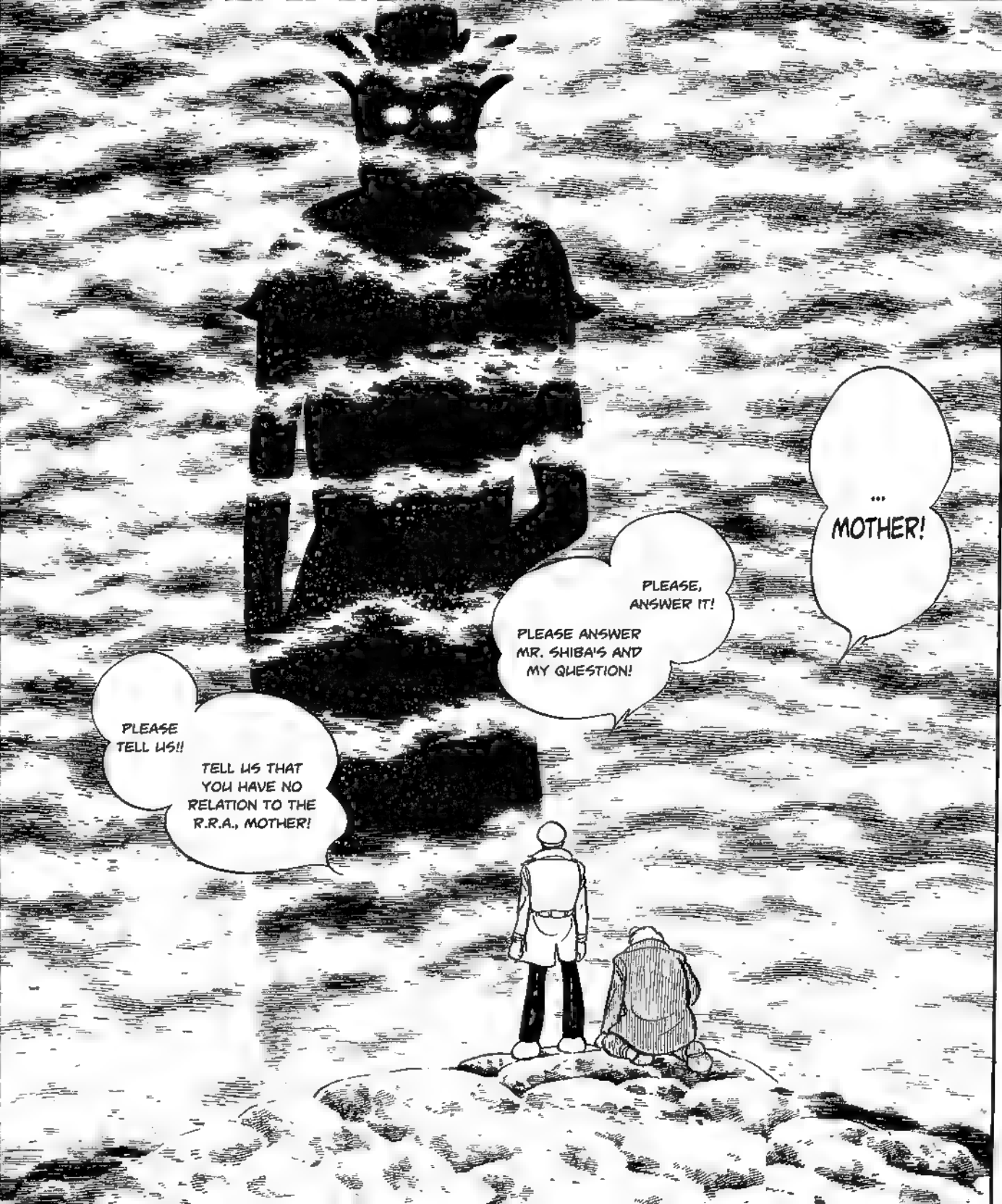
WHICH IS WHY, IF YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CREATED ME, MOTHER...

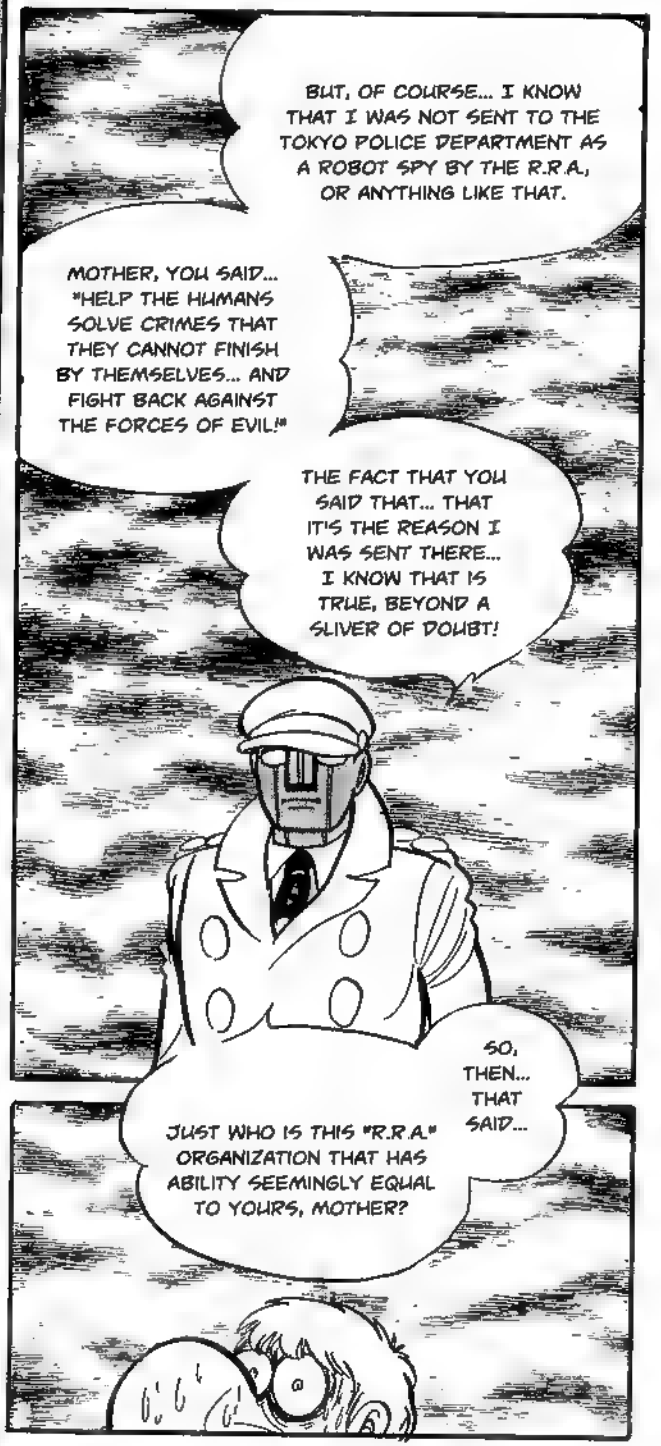
NO... EVEN IF IT WASN'T YOU... ASSURE HIM THAT THE R.R.A. DID NOT CREATE ME!

I HAVE INVESTIGATED THE ROBOTICS OF THE MODERN ERA... AND THE LIMITS OF THE AGE WE LIVE IN!

EVEN I HAVE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT HAVE!

BECAUSE, TRUTH BE TOLD...


PLEASE TELL US!!
TELL US THAT YOU HAVE NO RELATION TO THE R.R.A., MOTHER!
PLEASE ANSWER MR. SHIBA'S AND MY QUESTION!
PLEASE, ANSWER IT!
... MOTHER!


BUT, OF COURSE... I KNOW THAT I WAS NOT SENT TO THE TOKYO POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A ROBOT SPY BY THE R.R.A., OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
MOTHER, YOU SAID... "HELP THE HUMANS SOLVE CRIMES THAT THEY CANNOT FINISH BY THEMSELVES... AND FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL!"
THE FACT THAT YOU SAID THAT... THAT IT'S THE REASON I WAS SENT THERE... I KNOW THAT IS TRUE, BEYOND A SLIVER OF DOUBT!
SO, THEN... THAT SAID...
JUST WHO IS THIS "R.R.A." ORGANIZATION THAT HAS ABILITY SEEMINGLY EQUAL TO YOURS, MOTHER?

.....

..WHY ARE YOU NOT SAYING ANYTHING...?! JUST SAY, "NO, I AM NOT"! THAT'S ALL!

MOTHER...

MOTHER?!
YOU CANNOT GO! NOT YET!!
MOTHER!!
PLEASE, WAIT!! MOTHER!!

MOTHER...

SHE LEFT WITHOUT ANSWERING ANYTHING...

MOTHER... HAS LEFT.

DID THAT MAKE HER ANGRY AT ME..?

I TOLD HER THAT I WAS DOUBTFUL OF IT, TOO..

...BUT WHY ...?

JUST YOUR PRESENCE, MR. SHIBA, THAT MADE IT SO SHE COULD NOT SPEAK..?

OR WAS IT...

I TRUST MOTHER... MY MOTHER WITH EVERYTHING!

...N... NO!

THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE!!

BUT THEN, WHY...

WHY DID SHE NOT ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL...?!

IF I DID NOT TRUST HER, I COULD NOT HAVE LIVED, TO NOW!!

...WAS THAT WHAT SHE WAS SAYING TO ME NOW, BY LEAVING...?

"FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RELY ON ME... PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU MUST SETTLE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS BY YOURSELF... THE SAME WAY THAT HUMANS MUST USE REASON, THEMSELVES."

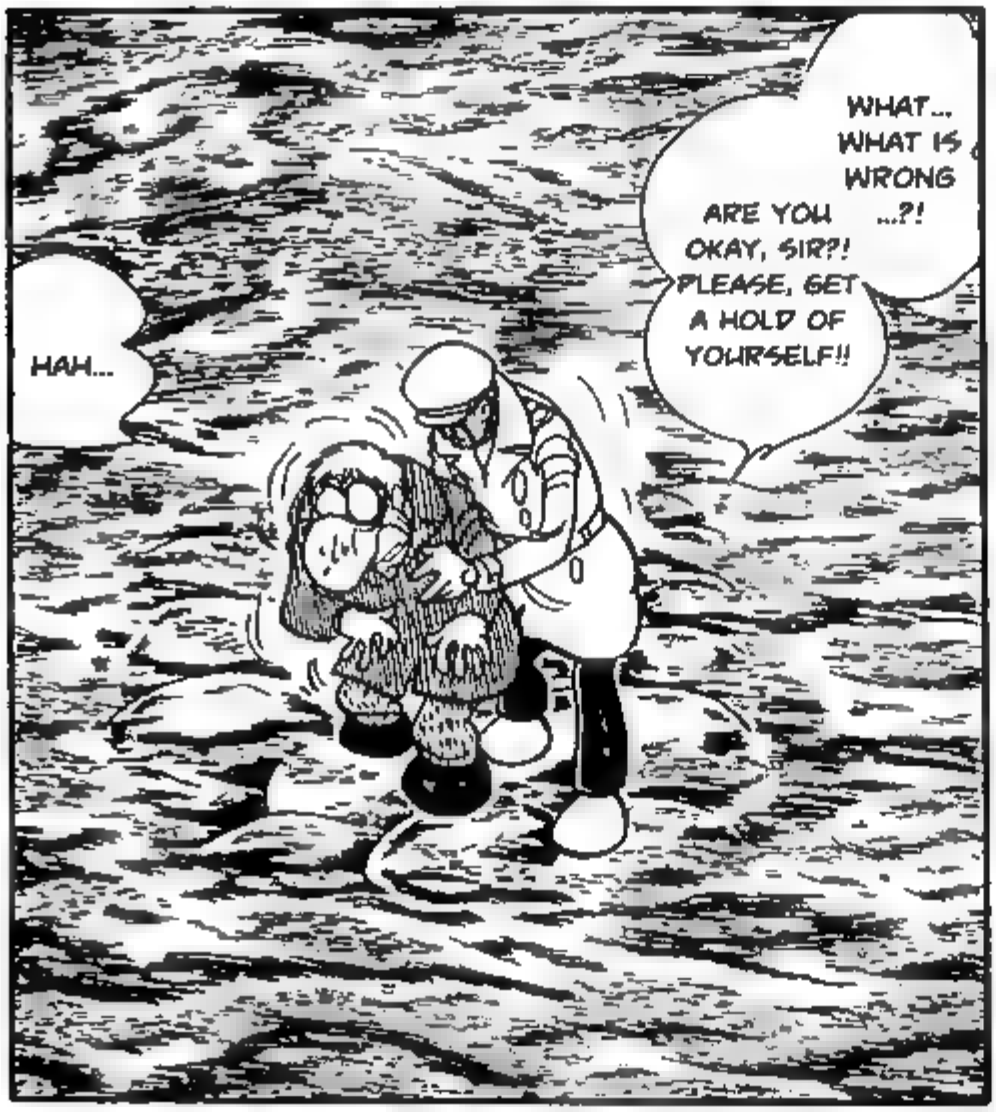
WHEN MOTHER FIRST SENT ME OUT, SHE SAID THIS TO ME..

AND ONE DAY, SOON, FIND OUT THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, AND DESTROY THAT ORGANIZATION IN THE PROCESS!!

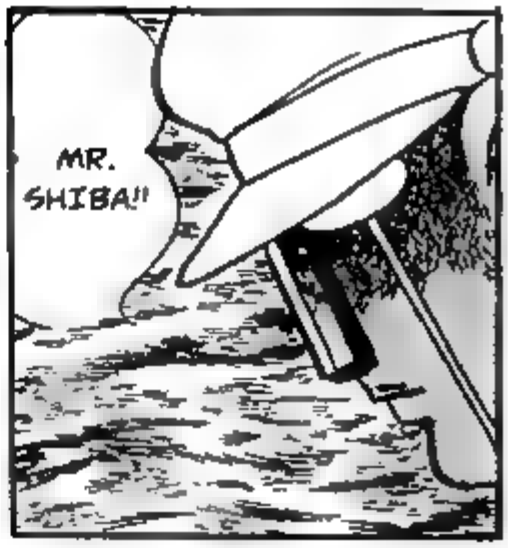
I WILL GO BY MYSELF... EAGERLY CHASE AFTER THE "R.R.A."

THAT IS WHAT I WILL BELIEVE!

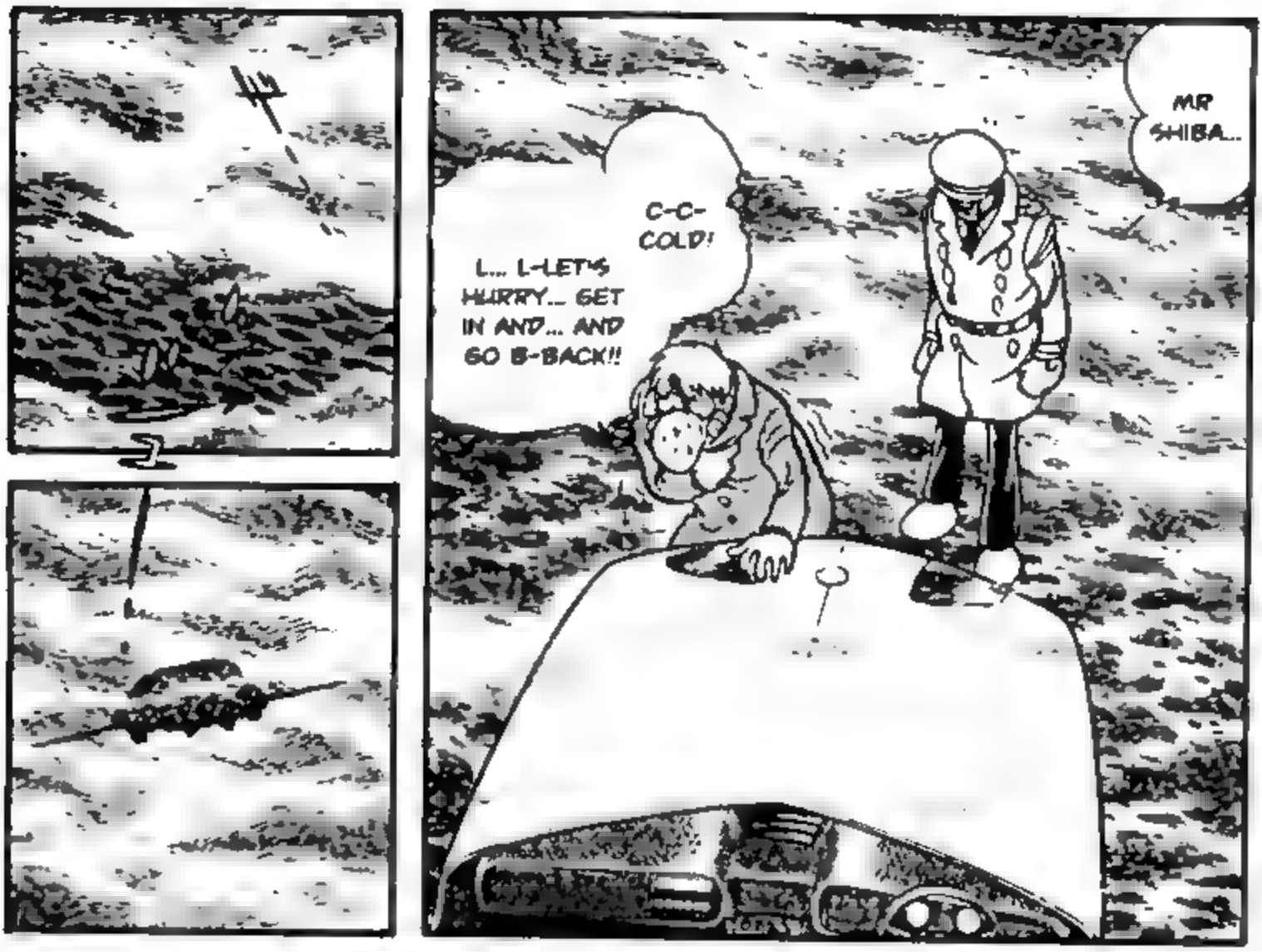
..MR. SHIBA..?
I WILL DO THAT... SO MR. SHIBA, PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME, TOO...

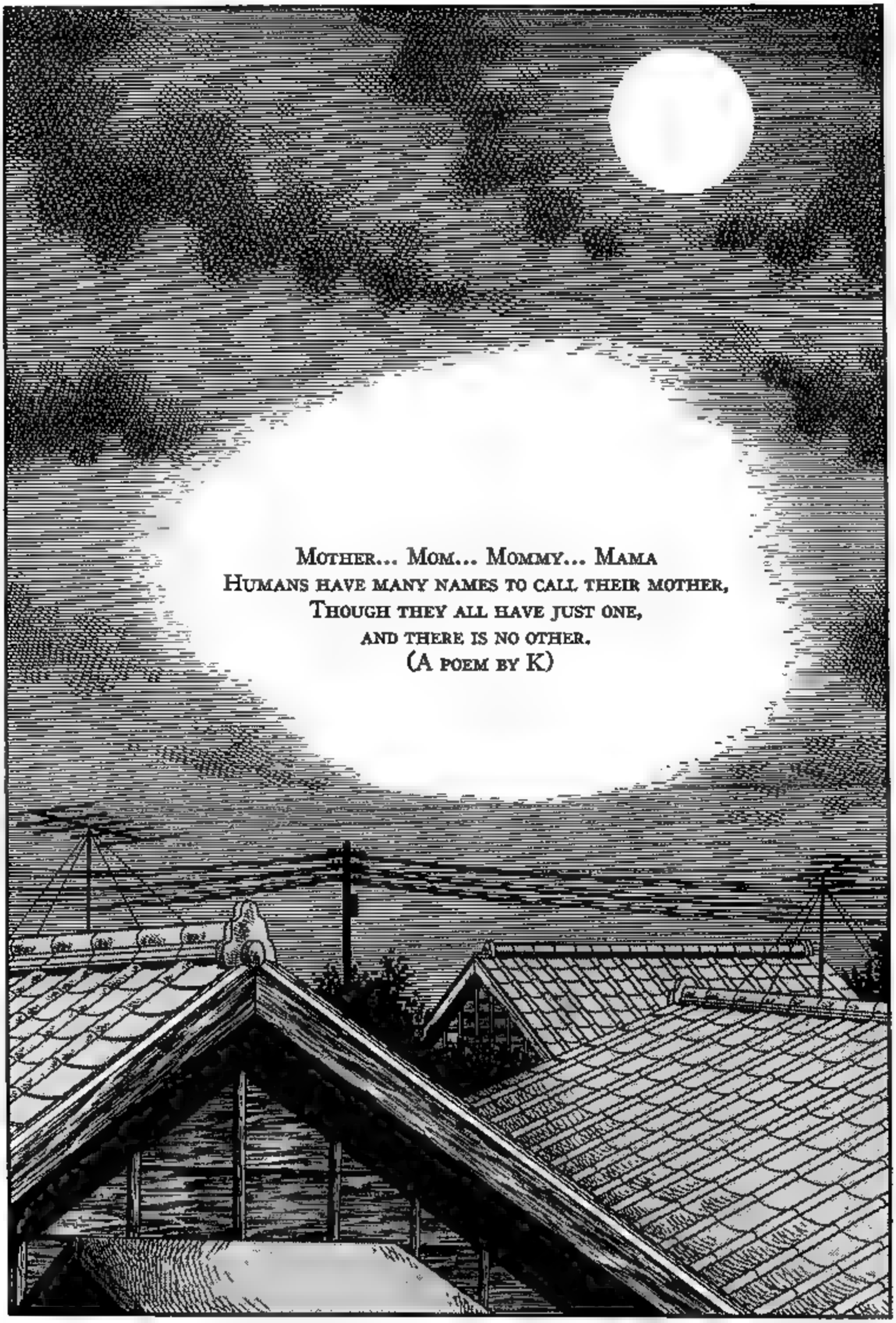

HAH...
WHAT... WHAT IS WRONG ...?!
ARE YOU OKAY, SIR?! PLEASE, GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!

... HAH- HH...
...AH...


MR. SHIBA!!

t' t' t'
M.. M-M-M- MONSER ...!!
G-GET YOUR OILY HANDS OFF ME!!
DON.. D-DON'T TOUCH ME!!


MR SHIBA...
C-C-COLD!
L... L-LET'S HURRY... GET IN AND... AND GO B-BACK!!


MOTHER... MOM... MOMMY... MAMA
HUMANS HAVE MANY NAMES TO CALL THEIR MOTHER,
THOUGH THEY ALL HAVE JUST ONE,
AND THERE IS NO OTHER.
(A POEM BY K)

チュン
チュン
チュ…

…

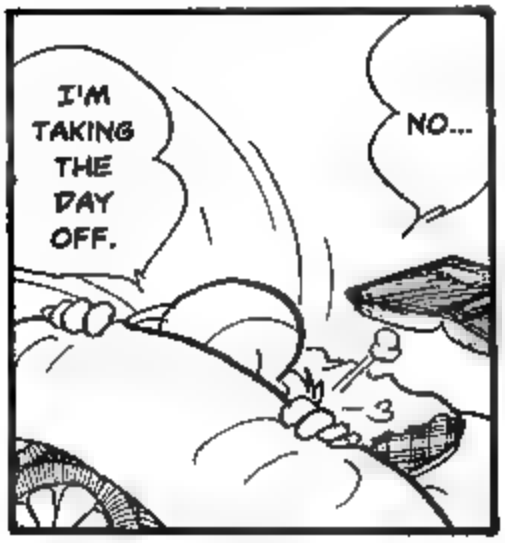
"Mechanical Man, Robot Manual, Guide to Robotics"

…!!

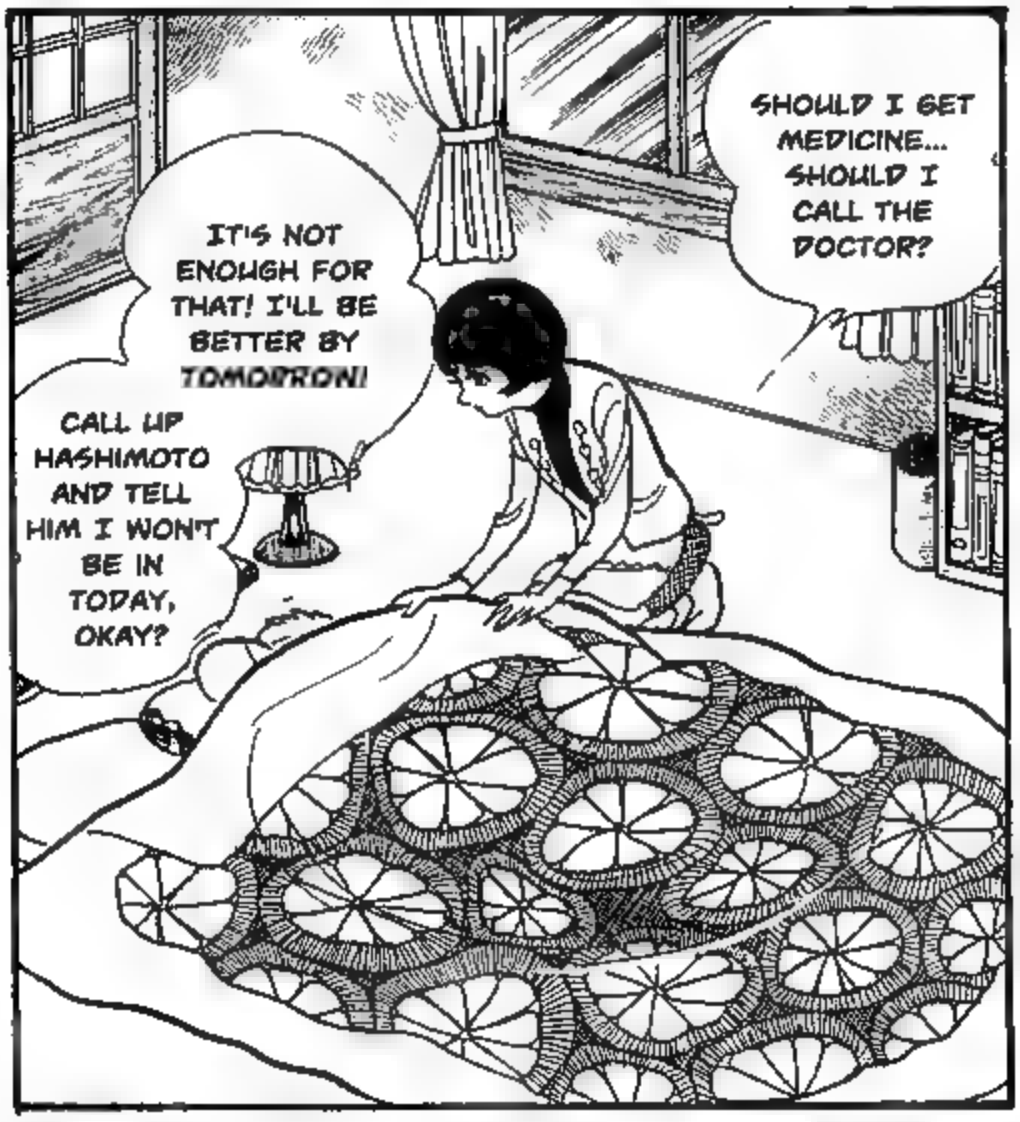
MOM ?!

AH!!

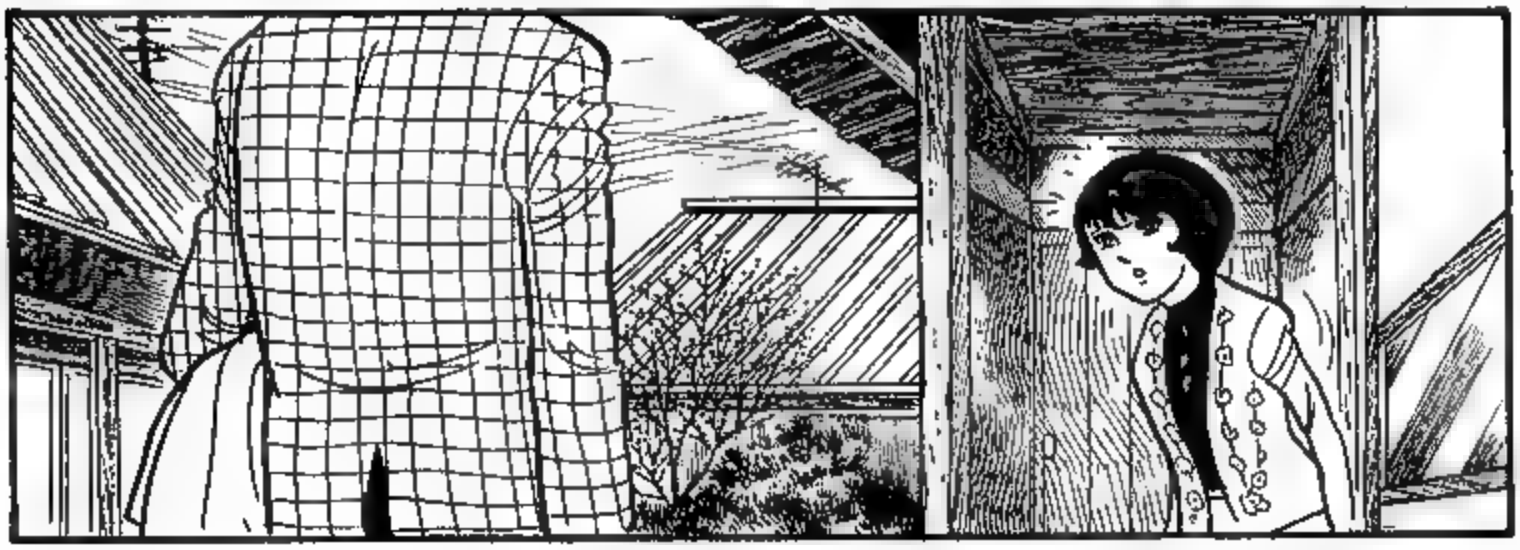
FATHER...!


I'M TAKING THE DAY OFF.
NO...

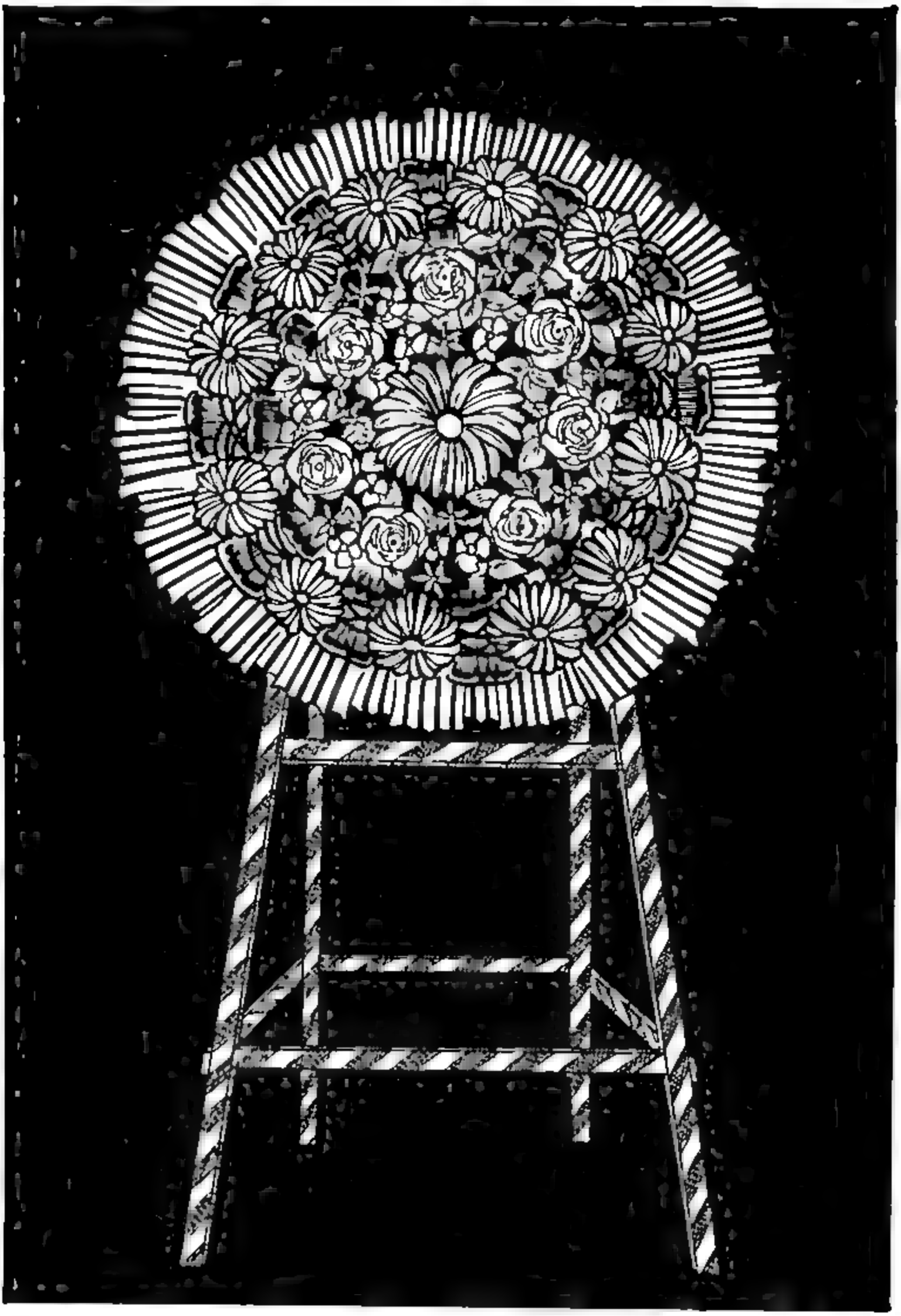
...IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE LEAV-ING AL-READY...
AH... GGH... OH, IT'S... IT'S JUST YOU, NAMI...


SHOULD I GET MEDICINE... SHOULD I CALL THE DOCTOR?
IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR THAT! I'LL BE BETTER BY TOMORROW!
CALL UP HASHIMOTO AND TELL HIM I WON'T BE IN TODAY, OKAY?

IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG ...?
OH...
I THINK I MIGHT'VE CAUGHT A LITTLE COLD LAST NIGHT...
MM-PH... IT'S NO-THING ...



大里
SHE WAS STRANGLED TO DEATH!!
AND... AND EVEN THOUGH WE SECURED THE ROOM PERFECTLY, AGAIN...
THIS... THIS TIME, IT WAS THE WIFE...



MOURNING
I THOUGHT IT WAS A RATHER HARSH WAY TO SAY IT...
BUT I SHOUTED AT THEM TO STOP THE FUNERAL.
THINKING I WAS GOING TO SAY "CONSOLIDATE ALL THE MEMBERS' DEATHS INTO ONE FUNERAL, SINCE YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE KILLED ANYWAY".
...BUT EVEN STILL, MR. OHSATO JUST BLEW UP AT ME...
I THOUGHT THE CULPRIT MIGHT USE THE CONFUSION TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE...

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE YOU COME HERE, MR. SHIBA!

BUT, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...AND WE REALLY COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY IN RESPONSE TO THAT

AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE CHANGING ANY TIME SOON...

...HMPH. WELL, I'M HERE.

THERE'S STILL A FEW WHO ARE HIDING OUT IN SECRET.

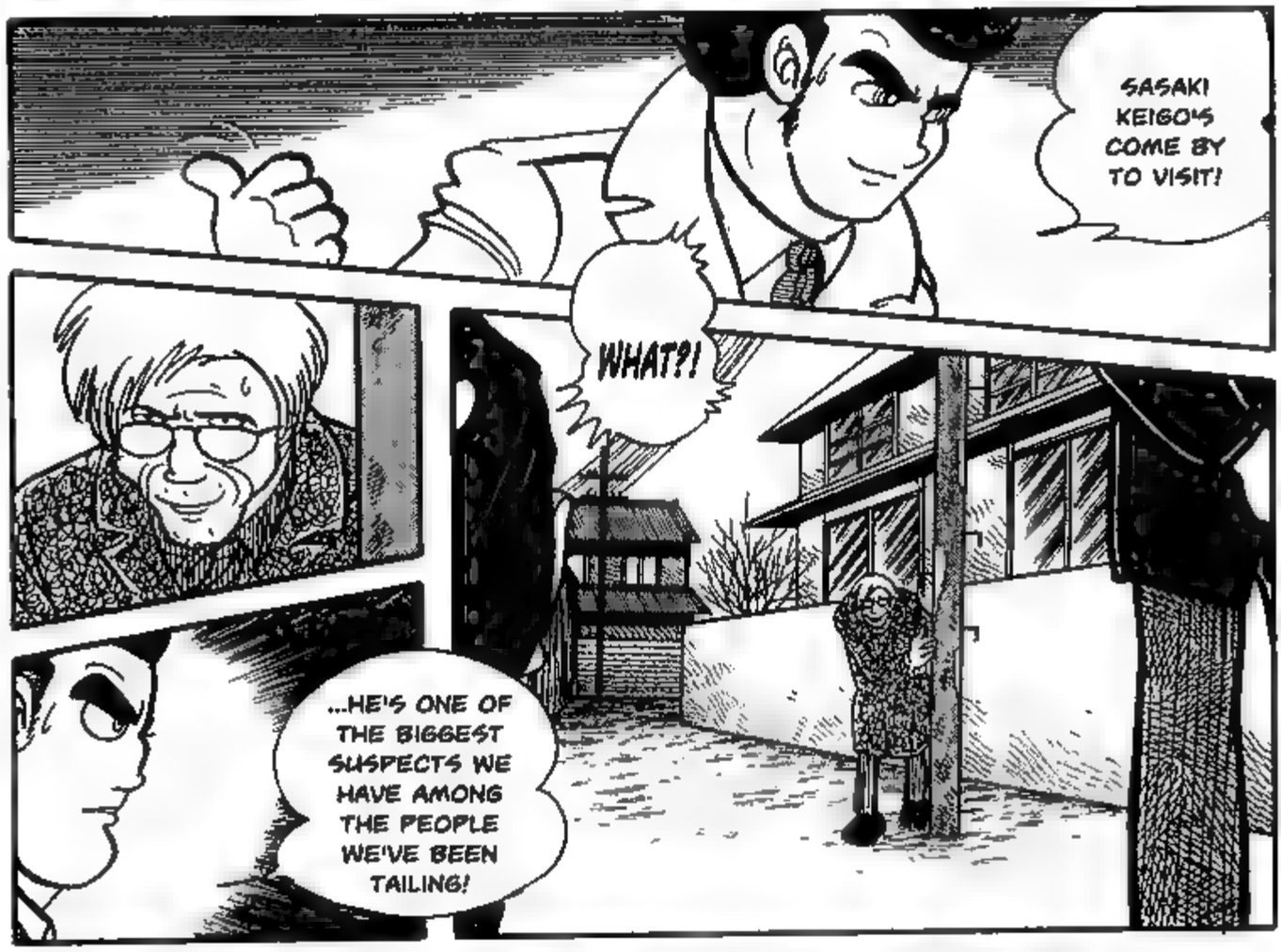
MOST EVERYONE ELSE IS ON PATROL AS POLICEMEN. BUT...

TEN OF THEM HAVE DRESSED UP IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AND JOINED THE CROWD OF ATTENDEES...

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER DETEC-TIVES?

HMM ?

OH, MR. SHIBA, TOO!
HEY, BIG BRO!
THERE'S A FEW PEOPLE THAT MR. OHSATO SAID HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM, SO SOME OF OUR MEN ARE TAILING THEM FROM THE SHADOWS, AS WELL.


SASAKI KEIGO'S COME BY TO VISIT!
WHAT?!
...HE'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST SUSPECTS WE HAVE AMONG THE PEOPLE WE'VE BEEN TAILING!

BUT MR. OHSATO TOOK OVER THAT COMPANY, SO HE LIVES IN AN APARTMENT, NOWADAYS.
UP TO ABOUT A YEAR AGO, HE WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF A SMALLER COMPANY...
HE CAME STRAIGHT HERE AFTER LEAVING HIS APARTMENT!
WE WERE FOLLOWING HIM LIKE YOU ASKED, BUT...

...HE [redacted] DOES SEEM TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF, WITH THAT [redacted] SMILE.

AND LATELY, HE'S BEEN BLURTING OUT THINGS LIKE "I WON'T DIE UNTIL OHSATO IS KILLED!"

THE RESULTING SHOCK MAY HAVE CAUSED HIM TO LOSE HIS MIND BIT BY BIT...

ABOUT HALF A YEAR AGO, HE PLANNED A DOUBLE SUICIDE WITH HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN. AND WHILE HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN DIED, HE ALONE SURVIVED BY ACCIDENT.

SHOULD WE TRY AND QUESTION HIM?

DON'T.

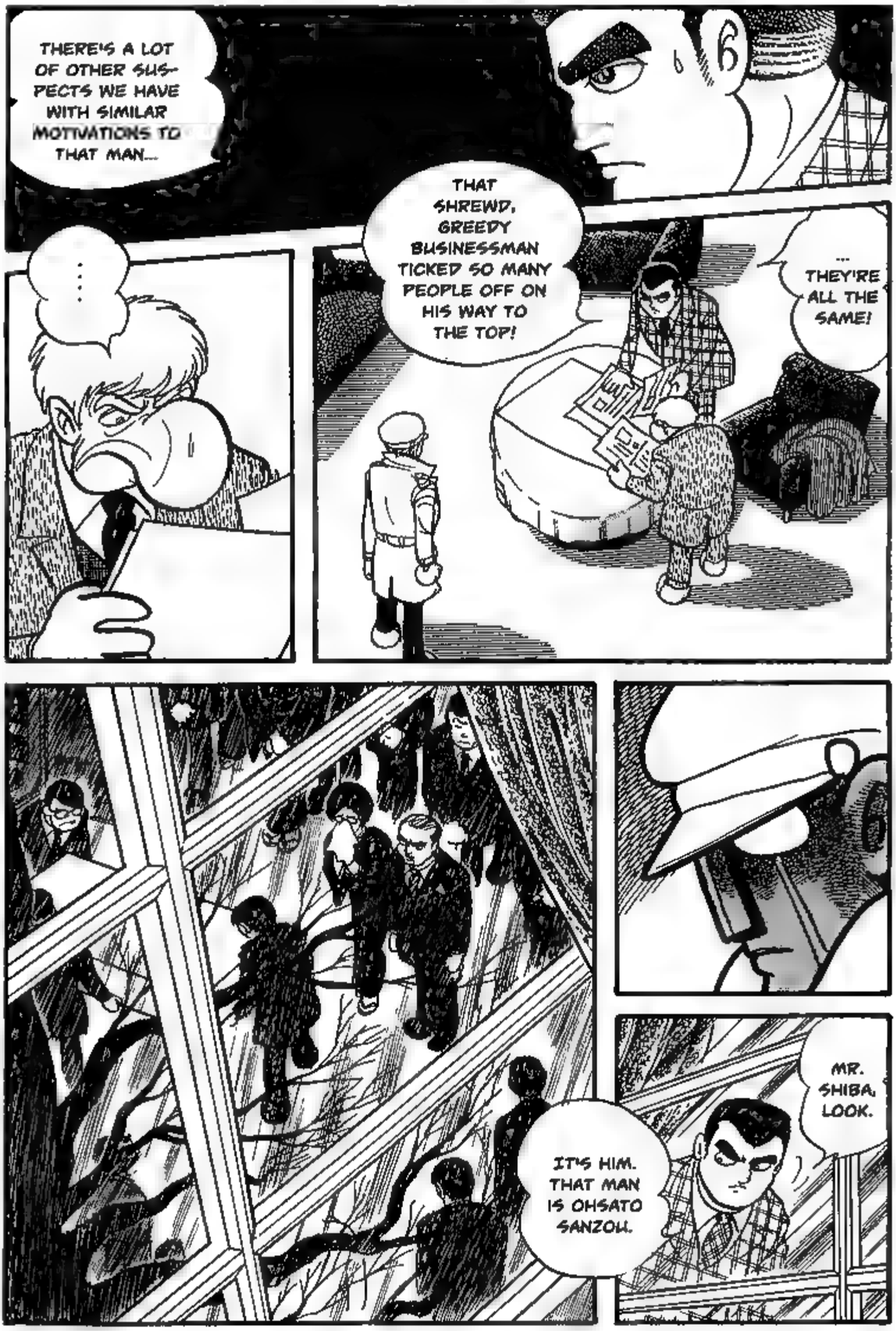
WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE, YET.

ON THE DAY THAT THE MURDER TOOK PLACE...

HE DIDN'T TAKE ONE STEP OUTSIDE HIS APARTMENT!

...IN ANY EVENT, KEEP TAILING HIM.

IF HE'S UP TO ANYTHING, YOU'LL FIND OUT BY KEEPING AN EYE ON HIM!


THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER SUSPECTS WE HAVE WITH SIMILAR MOTIVATIONS TO THAT MAN...
THAT SHREWD, GREEDY BUSINESSMAN TICKED SO MANY PEOPLE OFF ON HIS WAY TO THE TOP!
...
...THEY'RE ALL THE SAME!
MR. SHIBA, LOOK.
IT'S HIM. THAT MAN IS OHSATO SANZOU.

THE ONE NEXT TO HIM IS HIS DAUGHTER, MAIKO.
SO THE CULPRIT MUST BE SLOWLY WORKING HIS WAY UP TO OHSATO, HIMSELF...
HIS WIFE AND MOTHER HAVE BEEN KILLED OFF, TO NOW...
SINCE THE MURDERER'S PICKING TARGETS... THAT GIRL HAS TO BE THE NEXT
AFTER THE WIFE WAS KILLED, WE IMMEDIATELY STATIONED TWO FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS IN THE DAUGHTER'S ROOM...
HOW ARE THE SECURITY MEASURES?
SO HE CAN LEAVE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY UNTIL THE BITTER END, DON'T YOU THINK?
HMPH... GUESS HE CAN'T TRUST THE POLICE, ANYMORE.
IN ORDER TO LET HIM SLEEP MORE EASILY, HE HIRED A BODYGUARD NAMED ARAI TO KEEP WATCH FOR HIM.
IN MR. OHSATO'S ROOM...
AND ALONG WITH THAT...

NOW, ABOUT THAT... WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME FROM THE BEGINNING WHAT HAPPENED HERE, HMM?

UNDER THE STRICT, SEEMINGLY IMPENETRABLE SUPERVISION OF THE POLICE FORCE, TWO MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE KILLED!

...WELL, THAT'S ONLY NATURAL!

THIS IS THE LETTER THAT MR. OHSATO RECEIVED A WEEK BEFORE THIS ALL STARTED... A MURDER MESSAGE WRITTEN TO WARN HIM ABOUT WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN!

大里さとおまえの一家いっかが

一週間いっしゅうかんに一人ひとりずつ

絞殺こうさつされていく

首くびをあらってまっておれ

おまえのしっている

より

OHSATO
I WILL KILL EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY
EVERY WEEK. YOU WILL FIND A DIFFERENT CORPSE
OF SOMEONE YOU ONCE LOVED STRANGLED TO DEATH
ALL YOU CAN DO IS TREMBLE IN FEAR
UNTIL YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE LEFT ALIVE

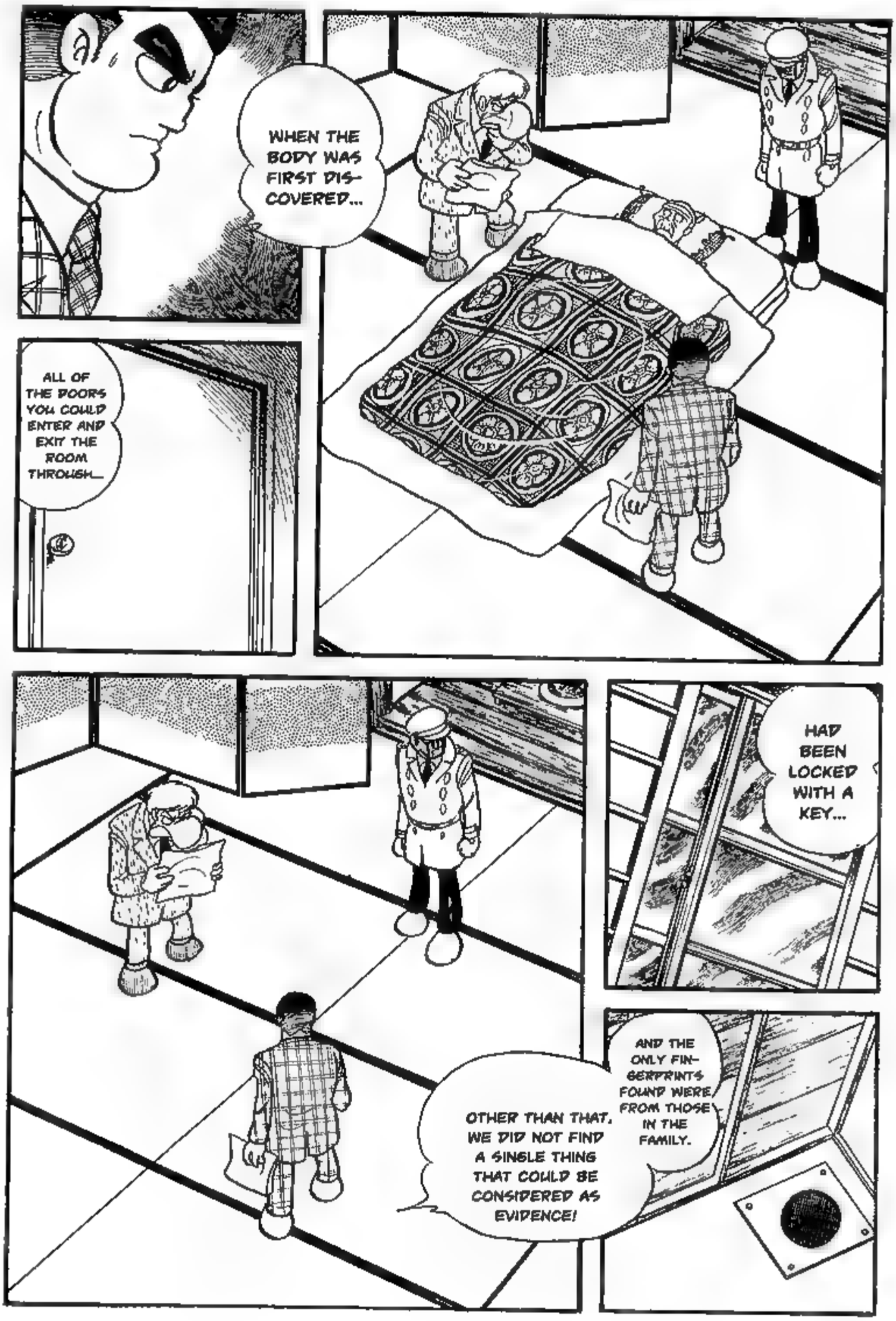
AND THIS IS THE LAYOUT OF THE ESTATE.

TERRACE
GARDEN
CLOSET
DESK
BED
CLOSET
JAP-ANESE-STYLE ROOM
CLOSET
CLOSET
CHAIR
DESK
CHAIR
WARDROBE
WARDROBE
PARLOR
ENTRY HALL
BED
BED
BED
DRESSER
DRESSER
DESK
DESK
CLOSET
BATH
TOILET
STORAGE
KITCHEN
BACK DOOR
DINING ROOM
DRESSER
CLOSET
DESK
DRESSER
DRESSER
BED
BED
DRESSER
DRESSER
JAPANESE-STYLE LIVING ROOM
(JAPANESE-STYLE LIVING ROOM)
TERRACE

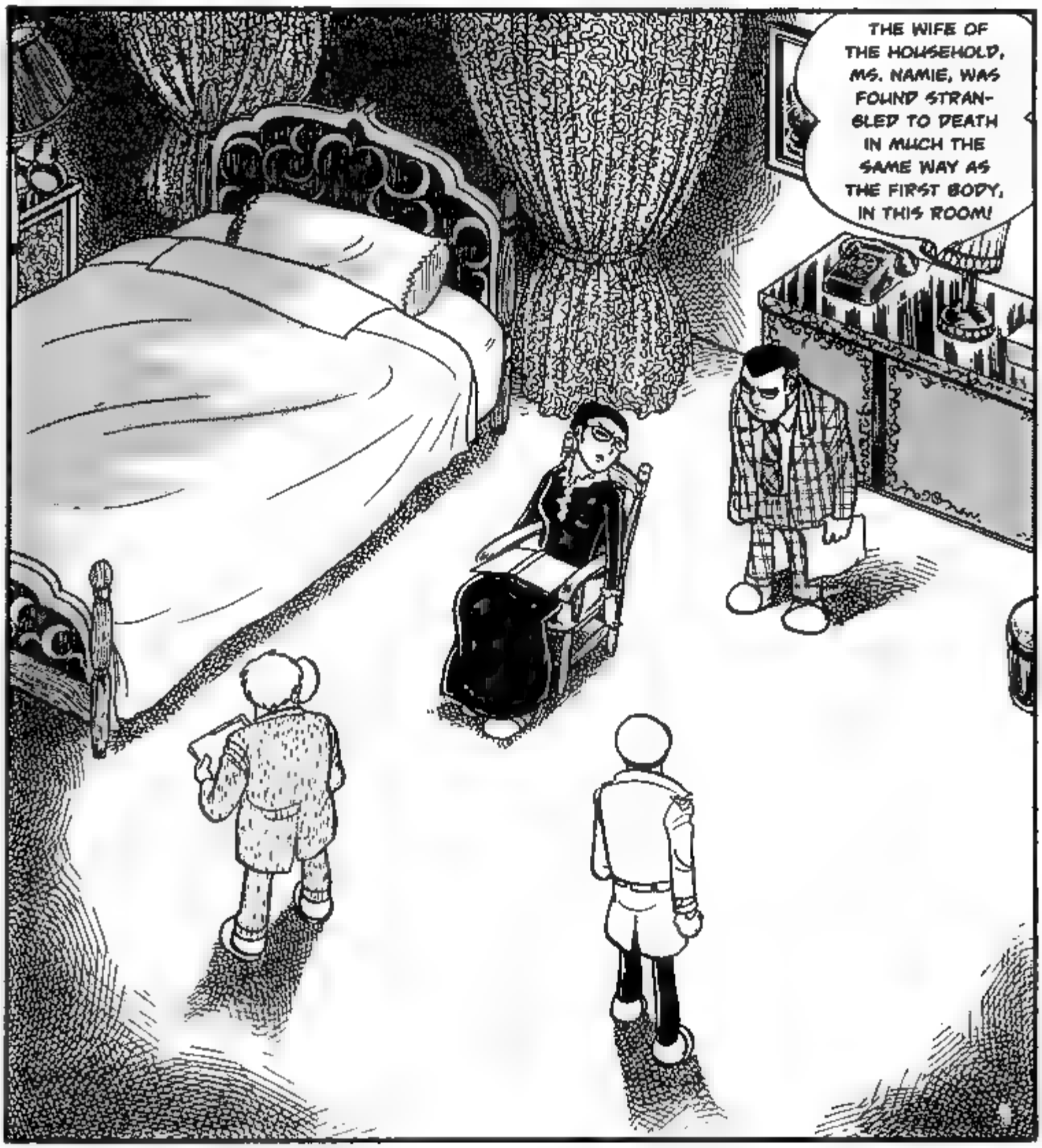
...

LAST FRIDAY, THE MOTHER WAS STRANGLED TO DEATH...

IN THIS ROOM, HERE.


WHEN THE BODY WAS FIRST DIS-COVERED...
ALL OF THE DOORS YOU COULD ENTER AND EXIT THE ROOM THROUGH...
HAD BEEN LOCKED WITH A KEY...
AND THE ONLY FIN-GERPRINTS FOUND WERE FROM THOSE IN THE FAMILY.
OTHER THAN THAT, WE DID NOT FIND A SINGLE THING THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AS EVIDENCE!

NEXT, WE COME TO THIS ROOM. JUST YESTER- DAY, ON MONDAY...


THE WIFE OF THE HOUSEHOLD, MS. NAMIE, WAS FOUND STRAN- GLED TO DEATH IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS THE FIRST BODY, IN THIS ROOM!

AND THIS TIME, IN THE ADJACENT ROOMS, HALLWAYS, AND WINDOWS SURROUNDING THIS ROOM...

AGAIN, ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS WERE LOCKED TIGHT... JUST AS WITH THE MOTHER, THE ROOM WAS COMPLETELY AND PERFECTLY SECURED!

WE HAD POLICE OFFICERS STATIONED, KEEPING WATCH INTENTLY THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT!

THINKING NORMALLY, THERE WAS NO WAY FOR US TO HAVE PREVENTED IT BEYOND WHAT WE ALREADY DID!

FOR THAT, I AM DEEPLY ASHAMED, HOWEVER...

...BUT IF IT'S ANYTHING, THEY MUST HAVE SLIPPED PAST THE GUARDS!

YES... JUST ONE THING.

THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU, MR. SHINJO.

HEY YOU FIGURED SOMETHING OUT, DIDN'T YOU.

・・・・？
IT IS ABOUT THAT AIR DUCT ON THE CEILING.
DID ANYONE IN YOUR UNIT THINK ANYTHING ODD ABOUT IT?
IT WOULD APPEAR IT WAS TAKEN OFF ONCE BEFORE AND REIN-STALLED...
HMM?
NO... NOBODY REALLY PAID IT ANY MIND... WHY?
I CAN SEE A GAP OF ABOUT 1 MILLIMETER ABOVE IT.
FROM THERE?!
A GAP ...?!
YOU CAN SEE A...

YEAH...

HE'S NOT JOKING. THAT GUY REALLY CAN SEE DETAIL LIKE THAT!

...

THE ONLY WAY SOMEONE COULD SNEAK INTO THE ROOM FROM THERE... WOULD BE IF THEY WERE THE SIZE OF A CAT!!

THERE'S NO WAY!

EVEN IF SOMEONE DID TAKE THE PLATE OFF...

BUT... [illegible] STILL...

OF COURSE. THE THING THAT ENTERED THIS ROOM WAS NOT A CAT.

[illegible] RIGHT, IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS CAPABLE OF EXERTING THE FORCE NEEDED TO STRANGLE A PERSON.

...

HEH... HEH-HEH... A CAT... SOMETHING THAT SIZE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO STRANGLE A FULLY-GROWN WOMAN... IT WOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO...

I BELIEVE SO.

...SO THIS IS THE WORK OF THE R.R.A. AGAIN, IS IT?!

...

SO THAT MEANS... THE TRUE CULPRIT HERE COULD KILL A PERSON WITHOUT TAKING A SINGLE STEP OUTSIDE HIS HOUSE.

SO THAT MAN BEFORE... SASAKI IS LOOKING A BIT MORE SUSPICIOUS!

I AM NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.

THE R.R.A. IS A FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. SOMEONE WITHOUT MONEY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ENLIST THEIR SERVICES.

HEH!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT HUMANS ARE LIKE!

EVEN IF HE'S BANKRUPT NOW, HE WAS ONCE A MAN WITH QUITE A BIT OF AFFLUENCE!

THEY'D BELIEVE HIM IF HE SAID HE STILL HAD A FORTUNE!

SO IT'S NOT STRANGE AT ALL FOR SOMEONE WHO HATES OHSATO AND WANTS TO KILL HIM WITH ALL HIS HEART...

TO USE EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO GET THE JOB DONE!

AND ANOTHER THING!

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME THINK THEY ENJOY THESE KINDS OF CRIMES...

WE DON'T EXACTLY KNOW, BUT I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE R.R.A.'S WAY OF DOING THINGS ISN'T DRIVEN SOLELY BY THE MONEY THAT'S IN IT FOR THEM!

M-MR. SHIBA!

JUST WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

"Forewarned Serial Murder in Secured Room Case Special Investigation Unit"

HMPH... BUT THAT ASIDE...

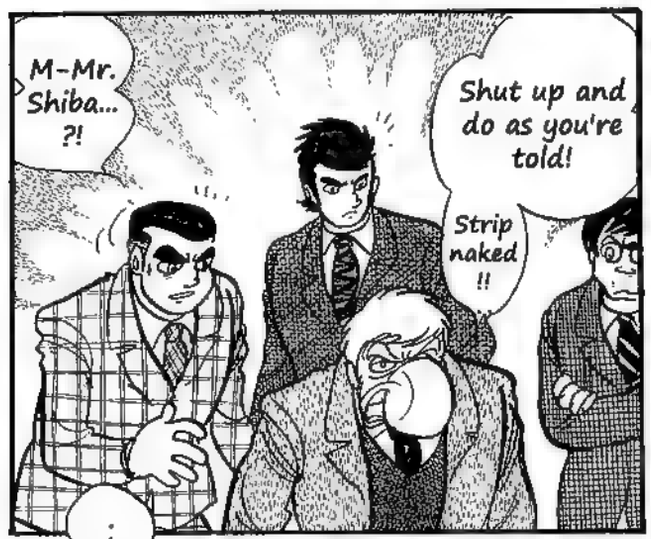
YOUR DIVISION CERTAINLY DOES HAVE A RIDICULOUSLY LONG NAME!!

THE "R.R.A.", YOU MEAN?

...FINE... I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO ALL OF YOU AT ONCE!

密室殺人事件捜査本部

Why ...
Do you want me to...?

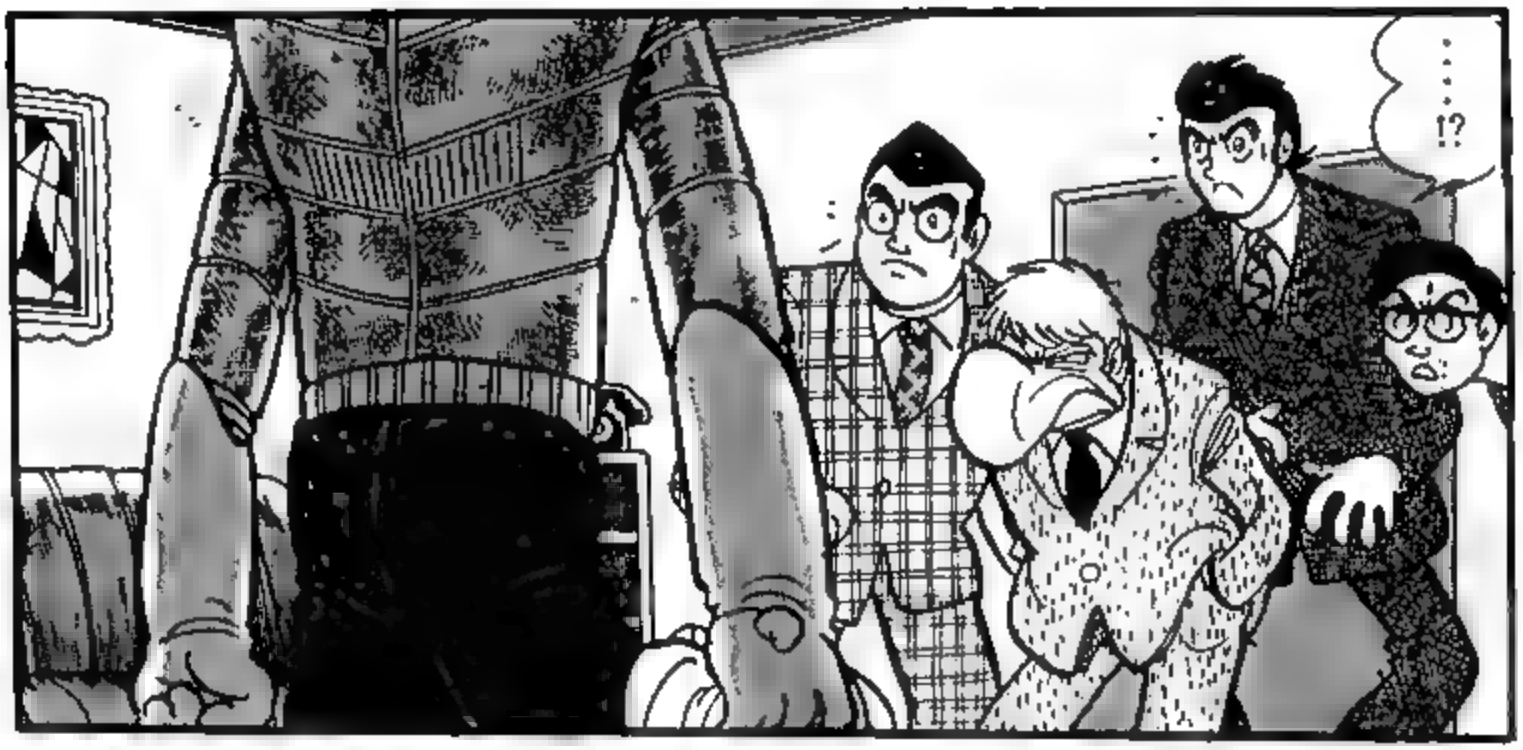

M-Mr. Shiba...?!
Shut up and do as you're told!
Strip naked !!

I under-stand.

The rest of you shut it, too!!

K! Take off your clothes!

パチン


……!?

T-THEN...
THAT THING ABOUT HIM BEING BADLY BURNED IN A FIRE...?
Y-YOU'RE KID-DING!!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK, ALL OF YOU!
HE'S A ROBOT!
ROBOT?!
UH... HUH?! WHAT... DID... YOU... SAY?!
...HMPH.

...

BUT THE TRUE IDENTITY OF MY PARTNER... IS THAT HE'S A ROBOT!

THAT WAS JUST A RUMOR THAT I PURPOSEFULLY STARTED TO KEEP THIS SECRET UNDER WRAPS!

HE'S MORE A FORENSICS MACHINE NAMED "K" TO AID ME IN MY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS!

NO...

HEH... HE'S HARDLY WHAT YOU'D CALL A PARTNER...

...SO IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD BE WONDERING WHY I CHOSE TO REVEAL THIS TO YOU ALL.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I NEEDED TO!

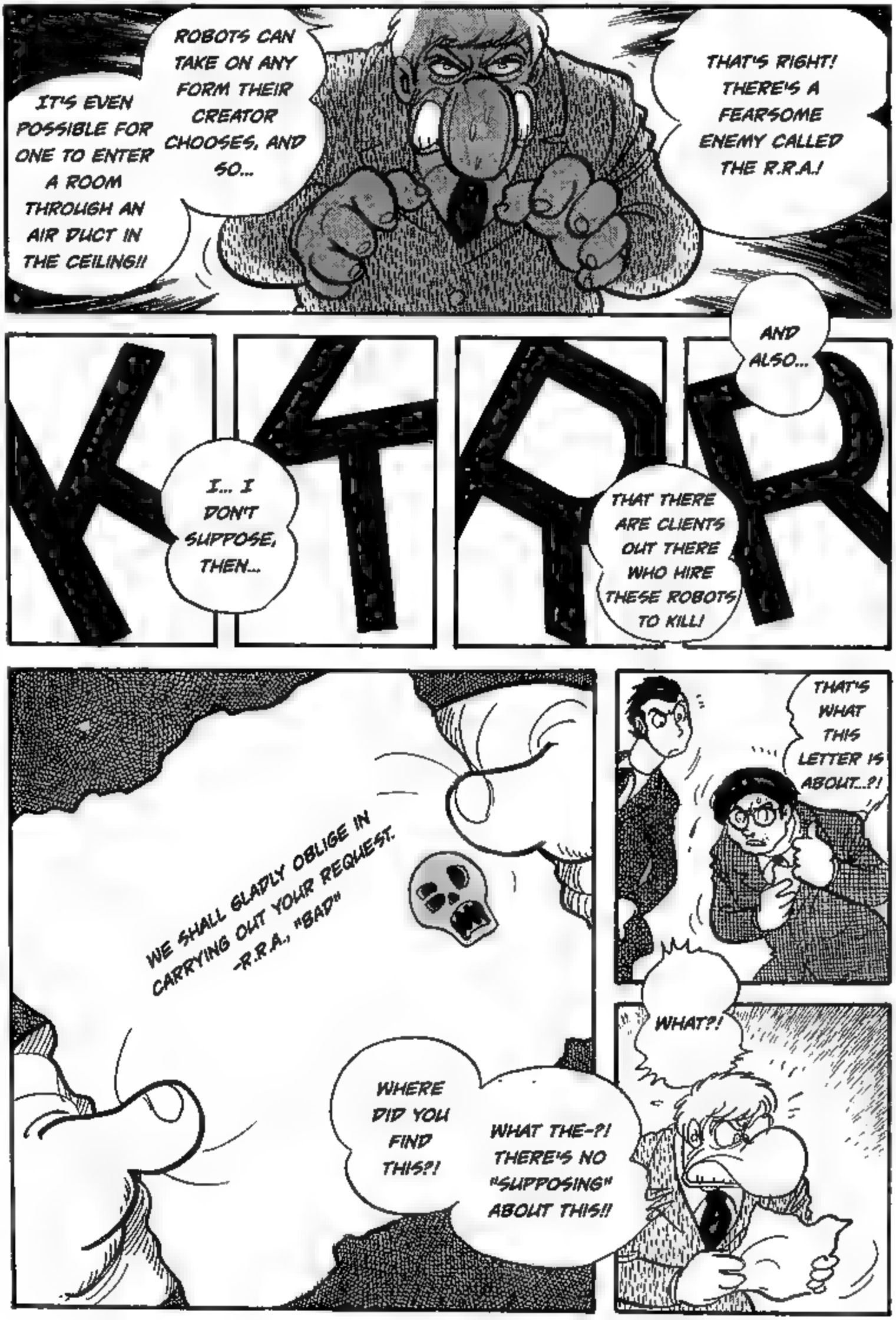
I NEEDED TO PROVE TO YOU ALL...

THAT ROBOTS SUCH AS THIS ONE DO EXIST IN THIS WORLD OF OURS!

THE ENEMY YOU ARE FACING RIGHT NOW...

THE SUSPECT OF THE "FOREWARNED SERIAL MURDER IN SECURED ROOM CASE" COULD VERY WELL BE A ROBOT JUST LIKE HIM!

AND IT'S IMPORTANT ALSO THAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THE R.R.A., AN ORGANIZATION WHERE PEOPLE CAN RENT ROBOTS!!


ROBOTS CAN TAKE ON ANY FORM THEIR CREATOR CHOOSES, AND SO...
IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE FOR ONE TO ENTER A ROOM THROUGH AN AIR DUCT IN THE CEILING!!
THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S A FEARSOME ENEMY CALLED THE R.R.A.!
KTKR
I... I DON'T SUPPOSE, THEN...
AND ALSO...
THAT THERE ARE CLIENTS OUT THERE WHO HIRE THESE ROBOTS TO KILL!
WE SHALL GLADLY OBLIGE IN CARRYING OUT YOUR REQUEST. -R.R.A., "BAD"
WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?!
WHAT THE-?! THERE'S NO "SUPPOSING" ABOUT THIS!!
THAT'S WHAT THIS LETTER IS ABOUT...?!
WHAT?!

WE FOUND IT WHILE SEARCHING AROUND HIS PREMISES AFTER HE CAME OUT OF HIS APARTMENT BEFORE...

AH, WELL... ABOUT THAT... THAT SASAKI KEIGO GUY HAD THIS IN THE DUMPSTER NEAR HIS APARTMENT...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS BEFORE?!

HE'S THE ONE THAT HIRED THE ROBOT!!

MORON!!!

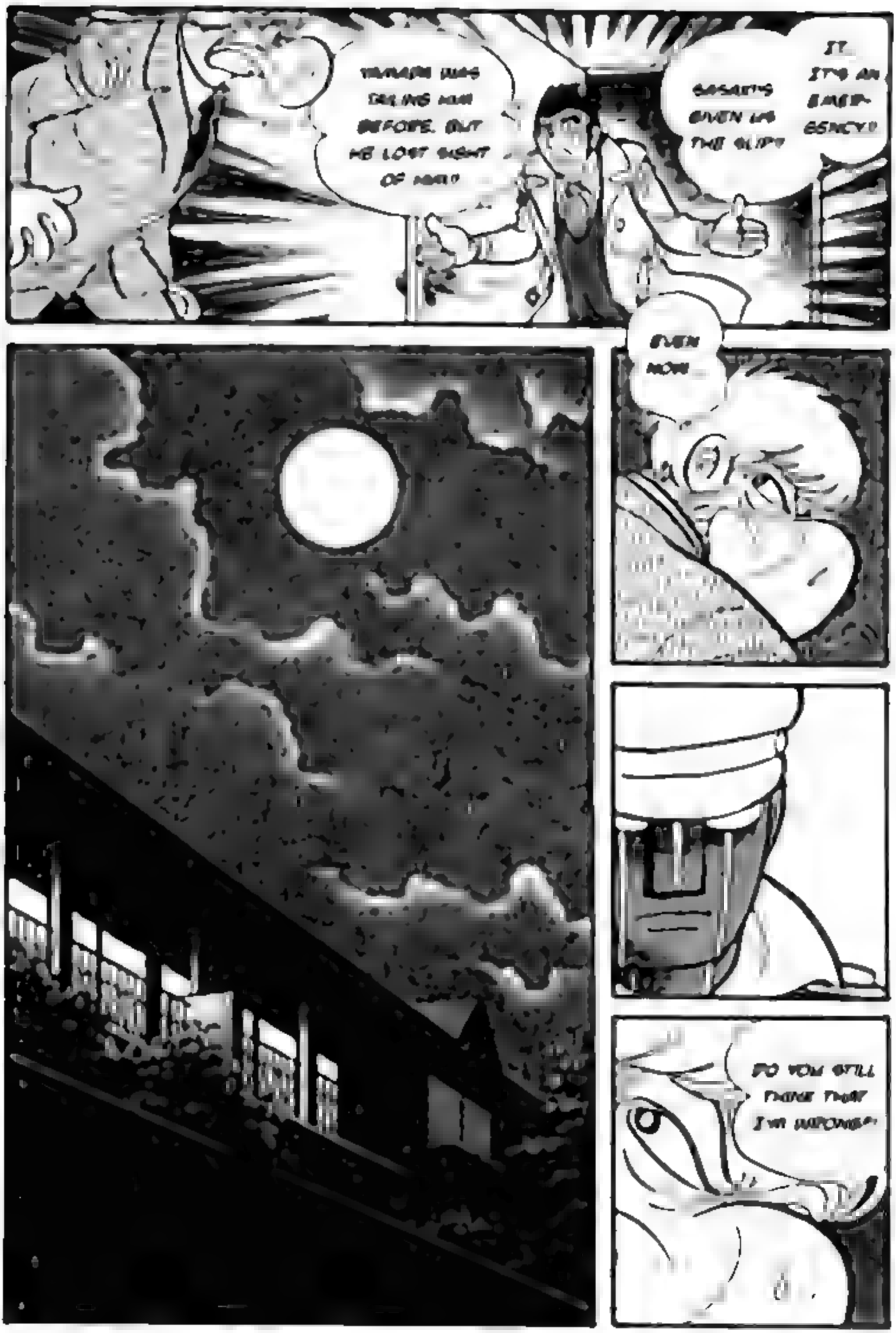
ARREST HIM, RIGHT THIS MINUTE!!

MGH?!

MAY I PUT MY CLOTHES BACK ON, NOW?

RRRGH... HONESTLY, EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM...

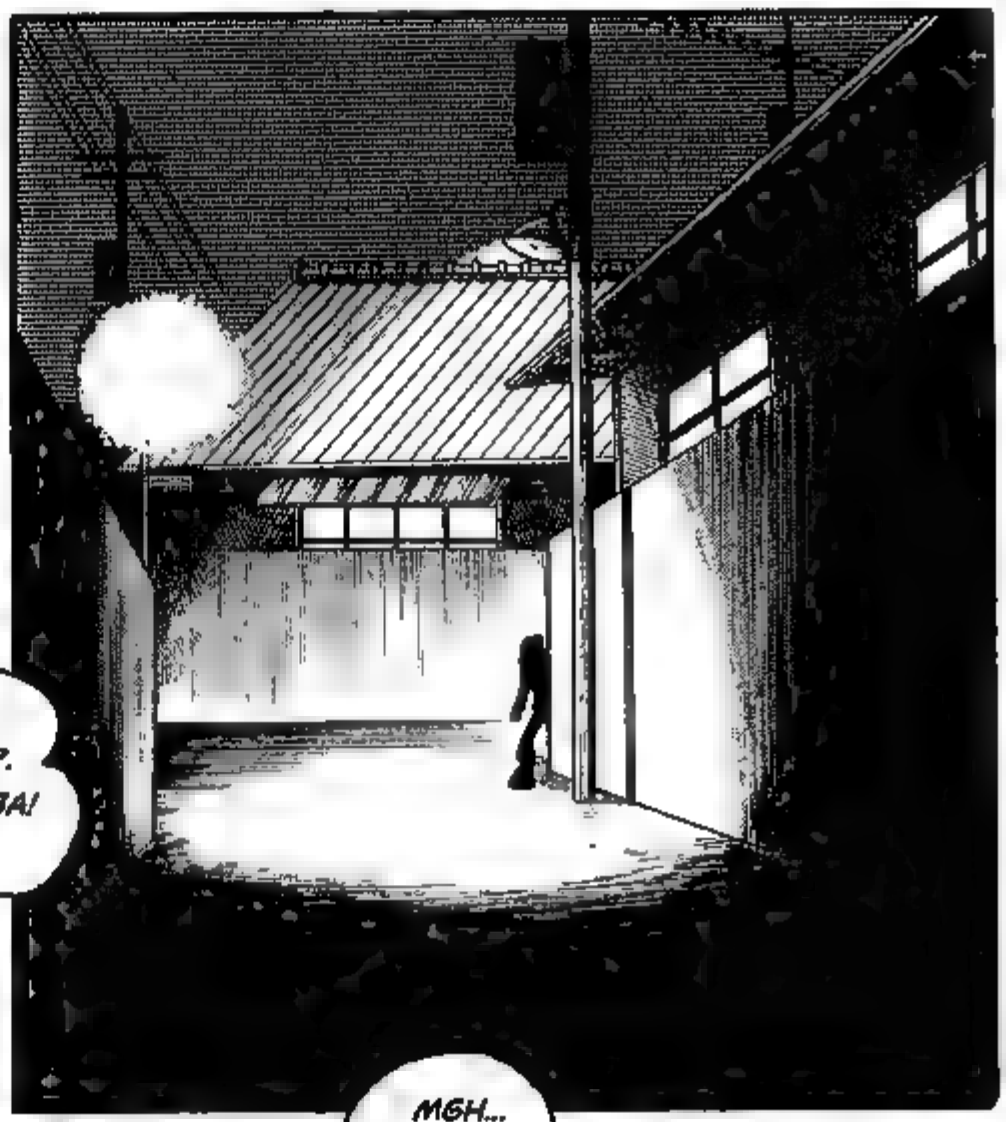
HEH HEH HEH!
HEH...
HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED, ALREADY!!
IDIOT!!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ASK ME FOR EVERYTHING!!
HE'S THE ONE THAT RENTED THE ROBOT!!
I KNEW IT... IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT IT'D BE!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I...
WHAT ARE YOU SPUTTERING ABOUT, YOU DEFUNCT TYPE-WRITER?!
MR. SHI-BA!!
I AM STILL HUNG UP ON THAT, AS IT WERE.
I WONDER... I GET THE FEELING THERE IS STILL SOME EVIDENCE WE HAVE OVERLOOKED...
WHAAAT?!

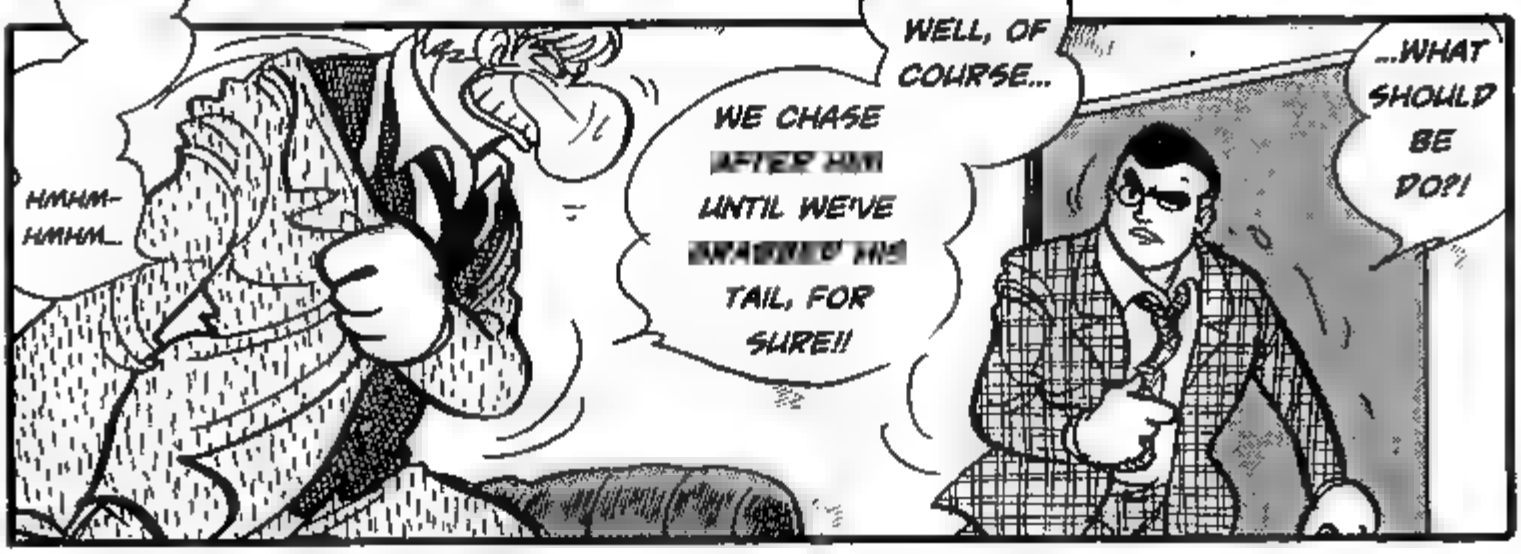

TAKAGIN WAS DEALING HIM BEFORE. BUT HE LOST SIGHT OF HIM!!
SASAKI'S GIVEN UP THE SLIP?
IT... IT'S AN EMER-GENCY!!
EVEN NOW...
DO YOU STILL THINK THAT I'M IMPORTANT?

I KNOW!
...HEY.

OH!

WE'VE FOUND SASAKI!!
MR. SHIBA!

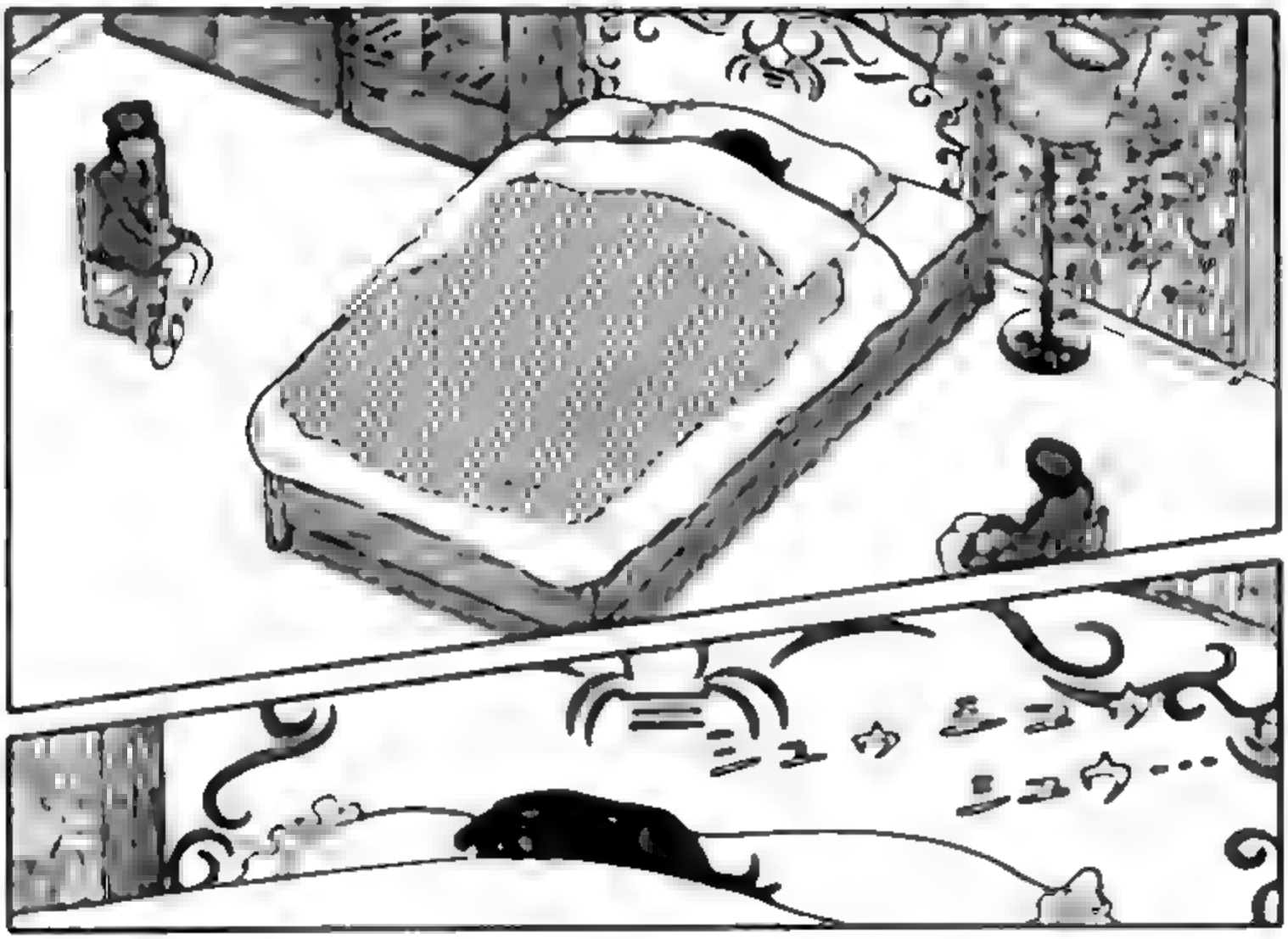


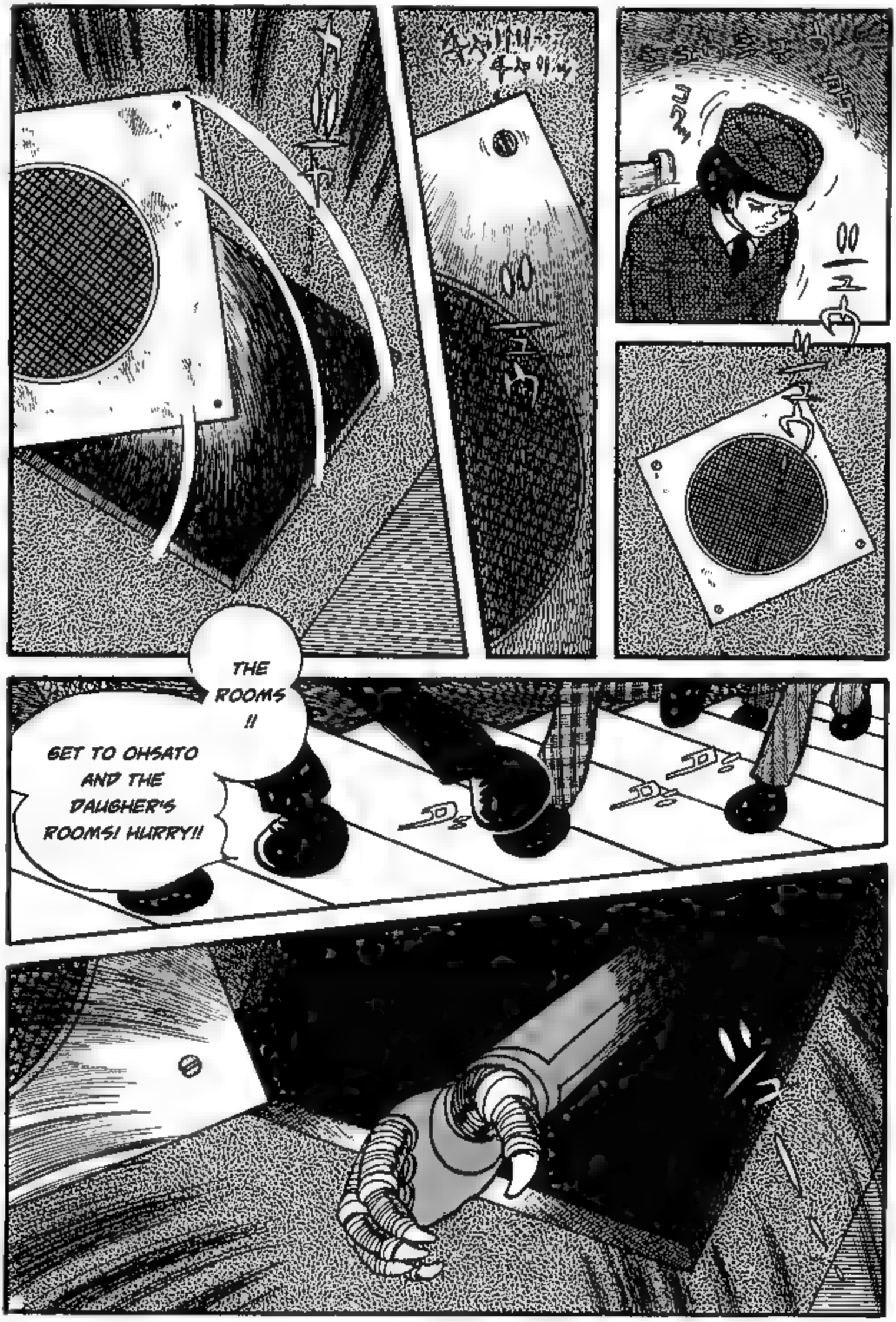

HMM...
HMHM-HMHM...
WE CHASE [illegible] UNTIL WE'VE [illegible] TAIL, FOR SURE!!
MGH... WELL, OF COURSE...
...WHAT SHOULD BE DO?!

WHAT THE-?!
HE... HE'S GONE?!

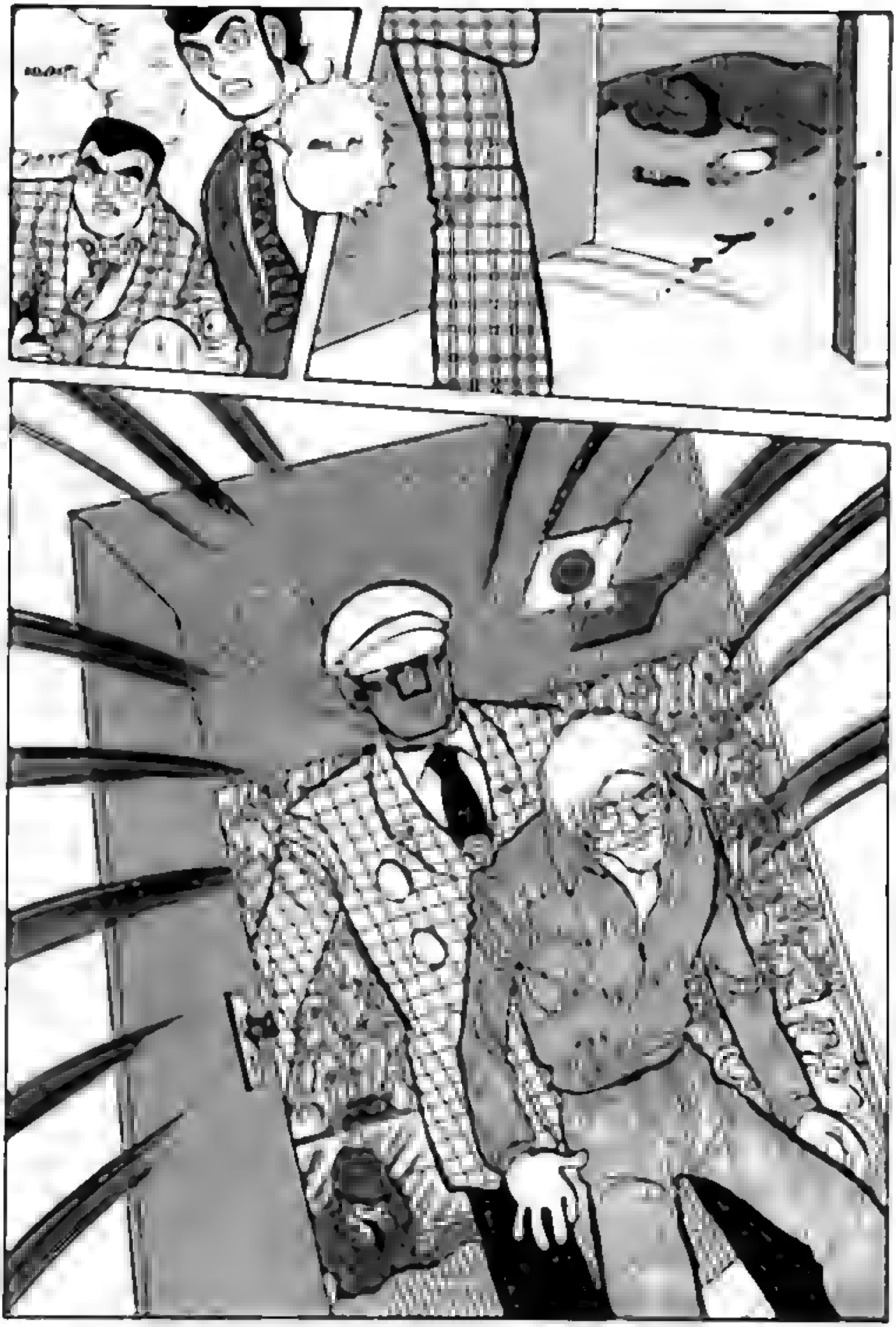
HMM ?!

YOU CAN'T FIND HIM, NO MATTER WHERE YOU LOOK?!?!
SASAKI DISAP-PEARED IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE?!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
THAT'S IDIOTIC!




THE ROOMS !!
GET TO OHSATO AND THE DAUGHER'S ROOMS! HURRY!!

OPEN UP!!
ARE YOU OKAY IN THERE?!
ドンドン
HUH?!
A KEY!! BRING A KEY!!
THIS IS STRANGE... THERE'S NO ANSWER!!
HEY... MISS MAIKO...

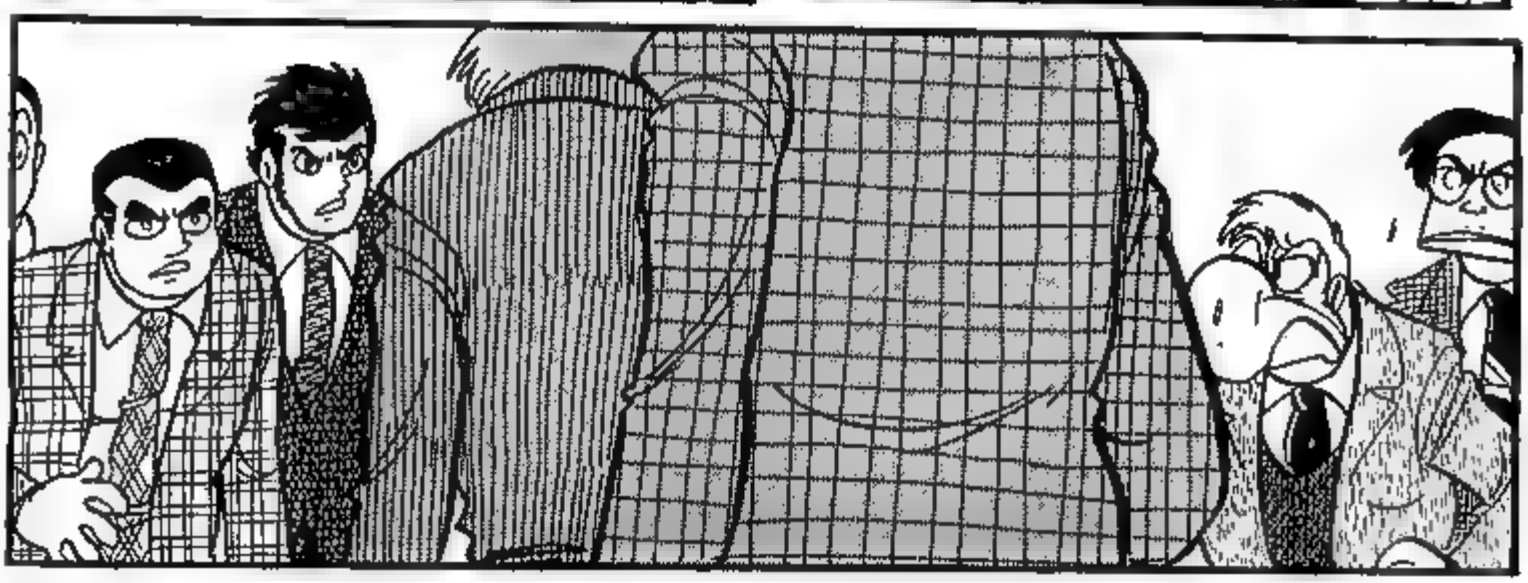


K?!

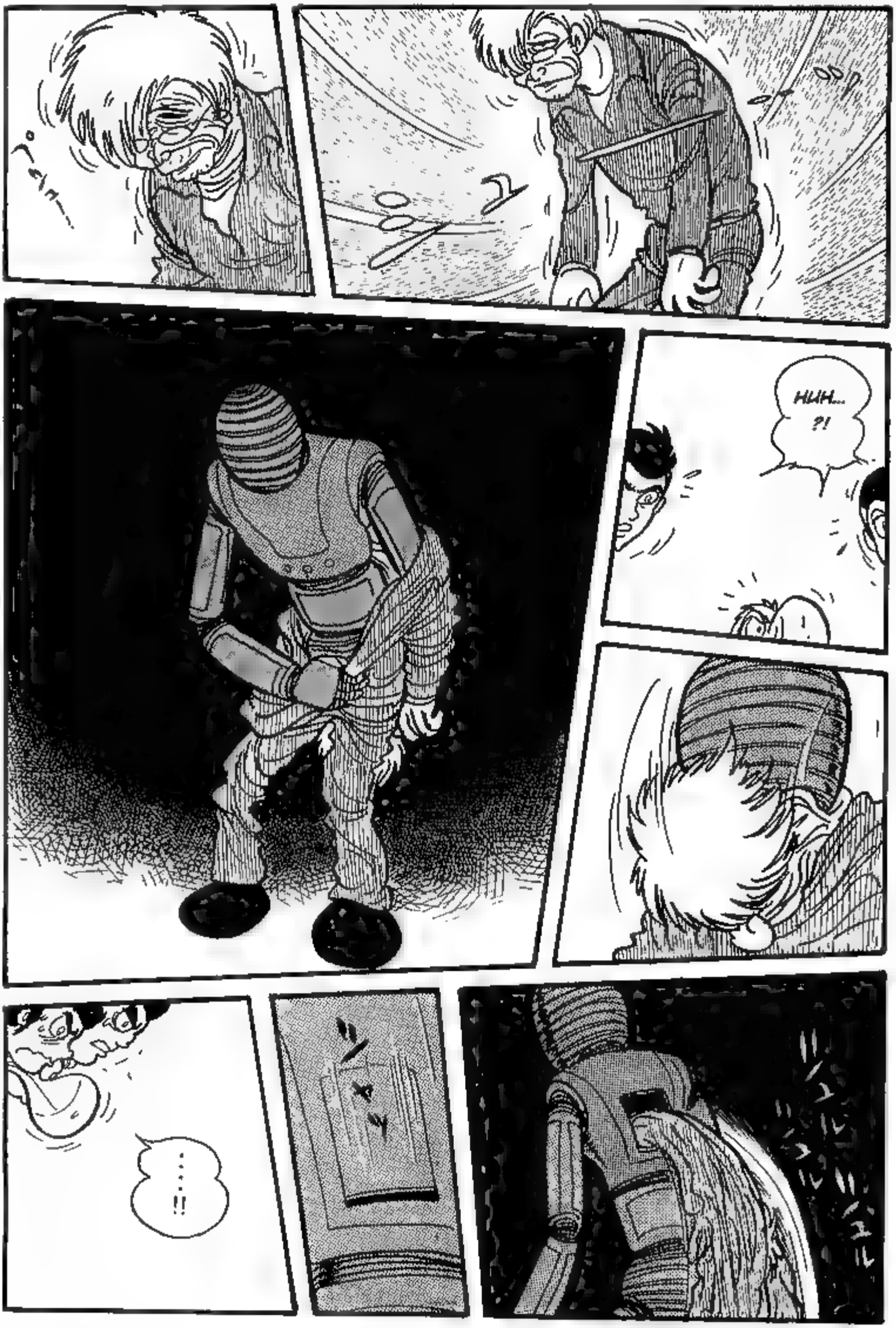
WHEN DID YOU-?!
SA... SA... SASAKI?!

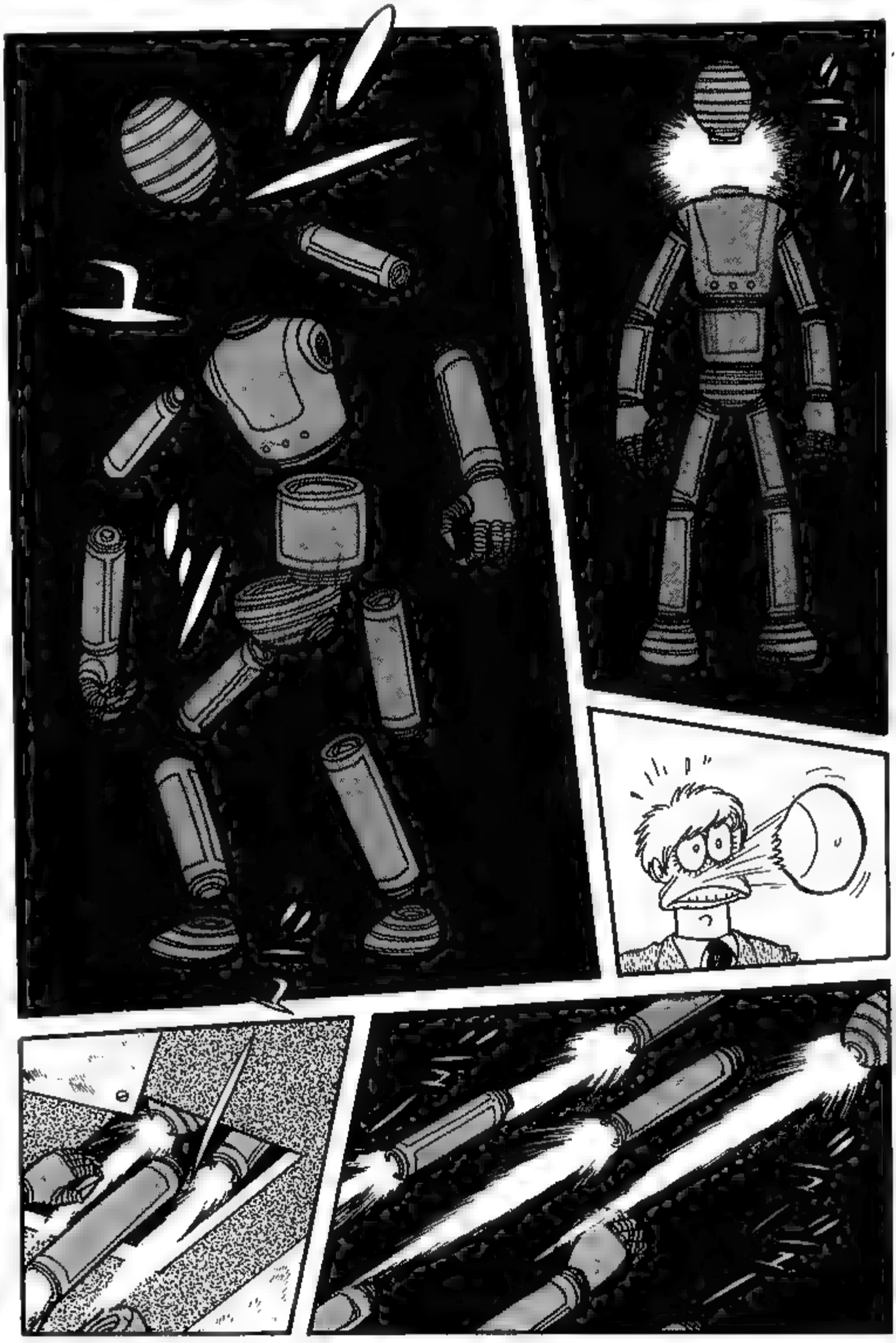
THIS IS A ROBOT ASSASSIN SENT BY THE R.R.A.!

NO... THIS IS NOT MR. SASAKI.



B-BUT, I...
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!
WHERE DID HE...
WHEN DID HE...
...WHAT HAP-PENED?!
ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.
THERE IS NO NEED TO WORRY... THEY HAVE BEEN PUT TO SLEEP WITH SLEEPING GAS.
W-WHOA!! THE WOMEN ARE-!!
YOU'LL...
"ALLOW" HIM?!
...THEN, I WILL ALLOW THIS ROBOT TO SHOW YOU HOW IT GOT INTO THIS ROOM, SO PLEASE TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
YES. I WAS ABLE TO SEVER AND THEN REWIRE ITS COMMAND CIR-CUITRY ONCE, ALREADY.
NOW, LET US BEGIN!


HUH...
?!
……!!



YES, VERY WELL DONE! IT WAS WAITING UP THERE, JUST LIKE THAT.

FROM THERE, IT COULD WATCH AND WAIT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO REASSEMBLE ITSELF INSIDE THE ROOM.

FROM THAT LOCATION...

NOW, THEN, EVERYONE...

IT PLANNED SLEEPING GAS INTO THE ROOM TO PUT THE TWO FEMALE POLICE OFFICERS STATIONED HERE TO SLEEP

ONCE BOTH GUARDS WERE OUT, IT QUICKLY MADE ITS WAY OVER TO MISS MAIKO'S BED.

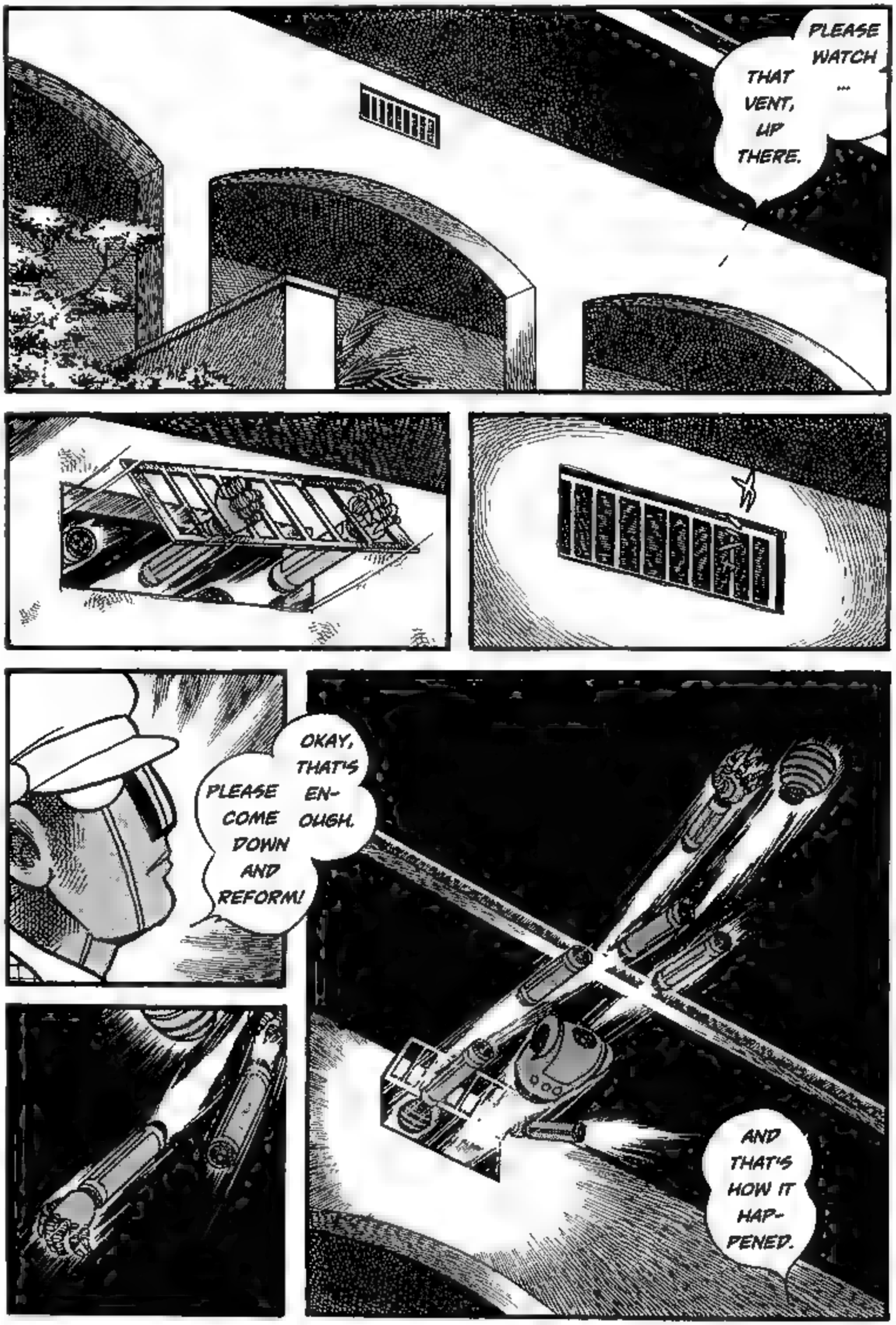
SHE IS IN A DIFFERENT ROOM.

WAS... WAS SHE STRANGLED?!

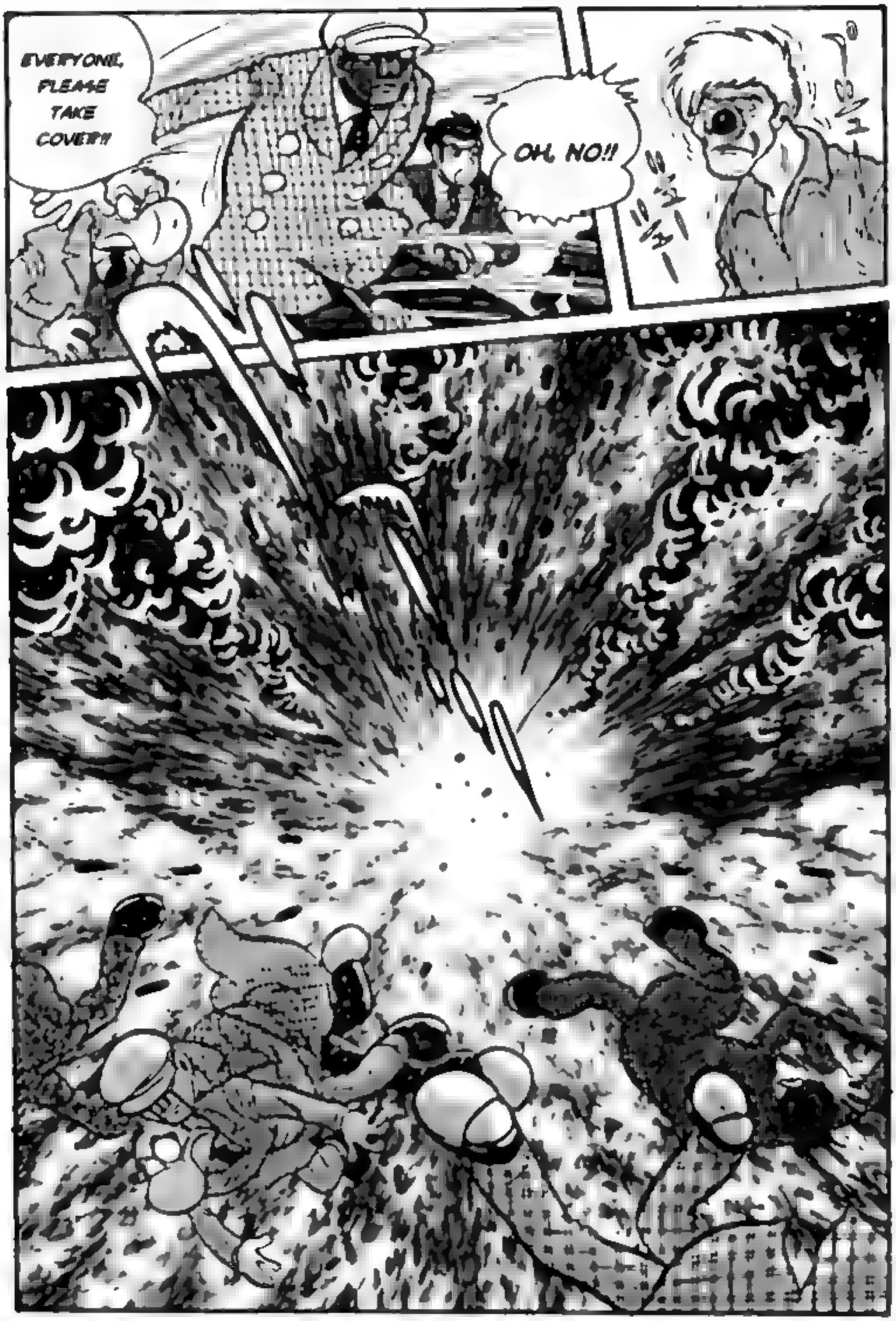
H-HEY!! WHERE IS SHE, NOW?!

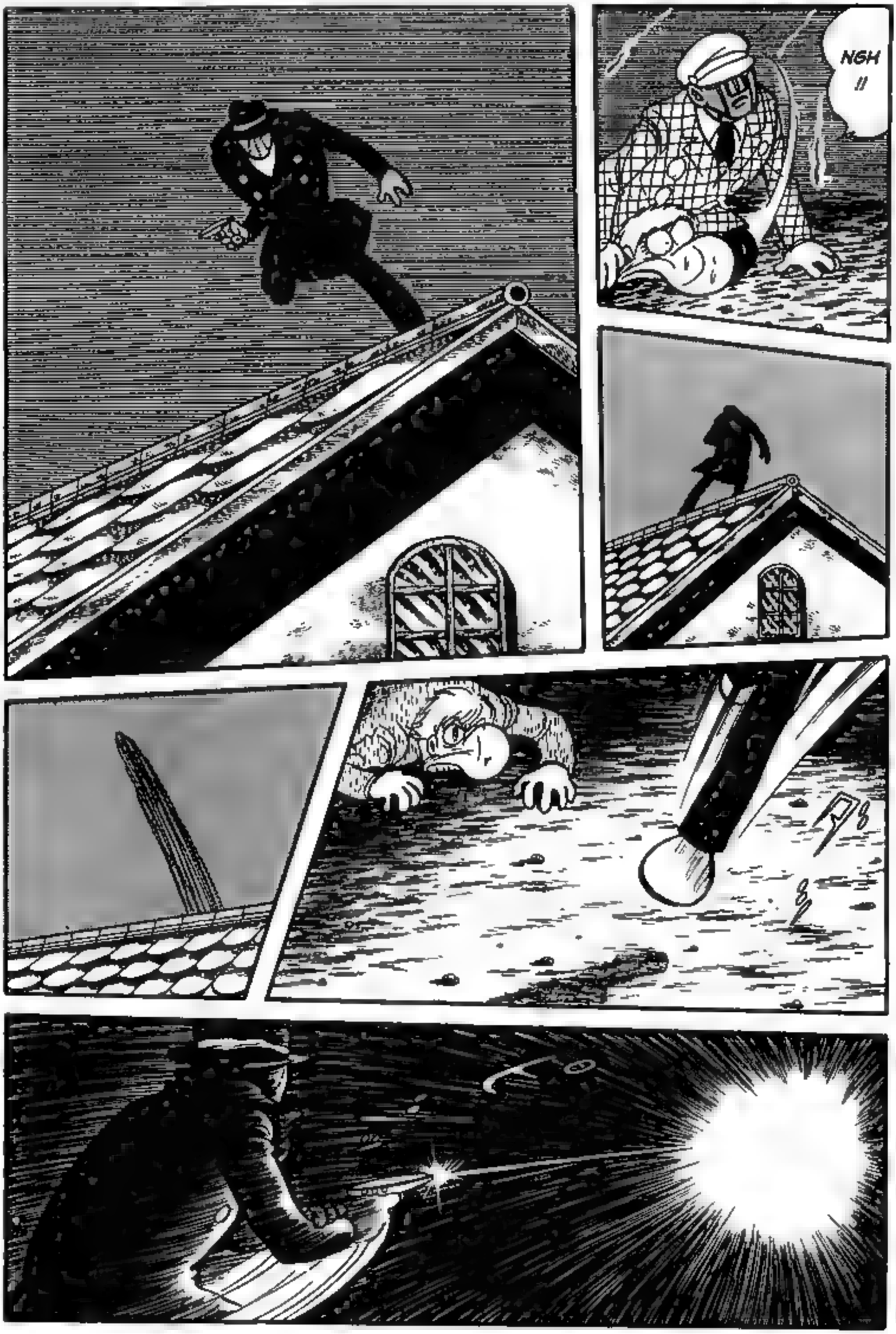
THE ONE SLEEPING IN THE BED TONIGHT.

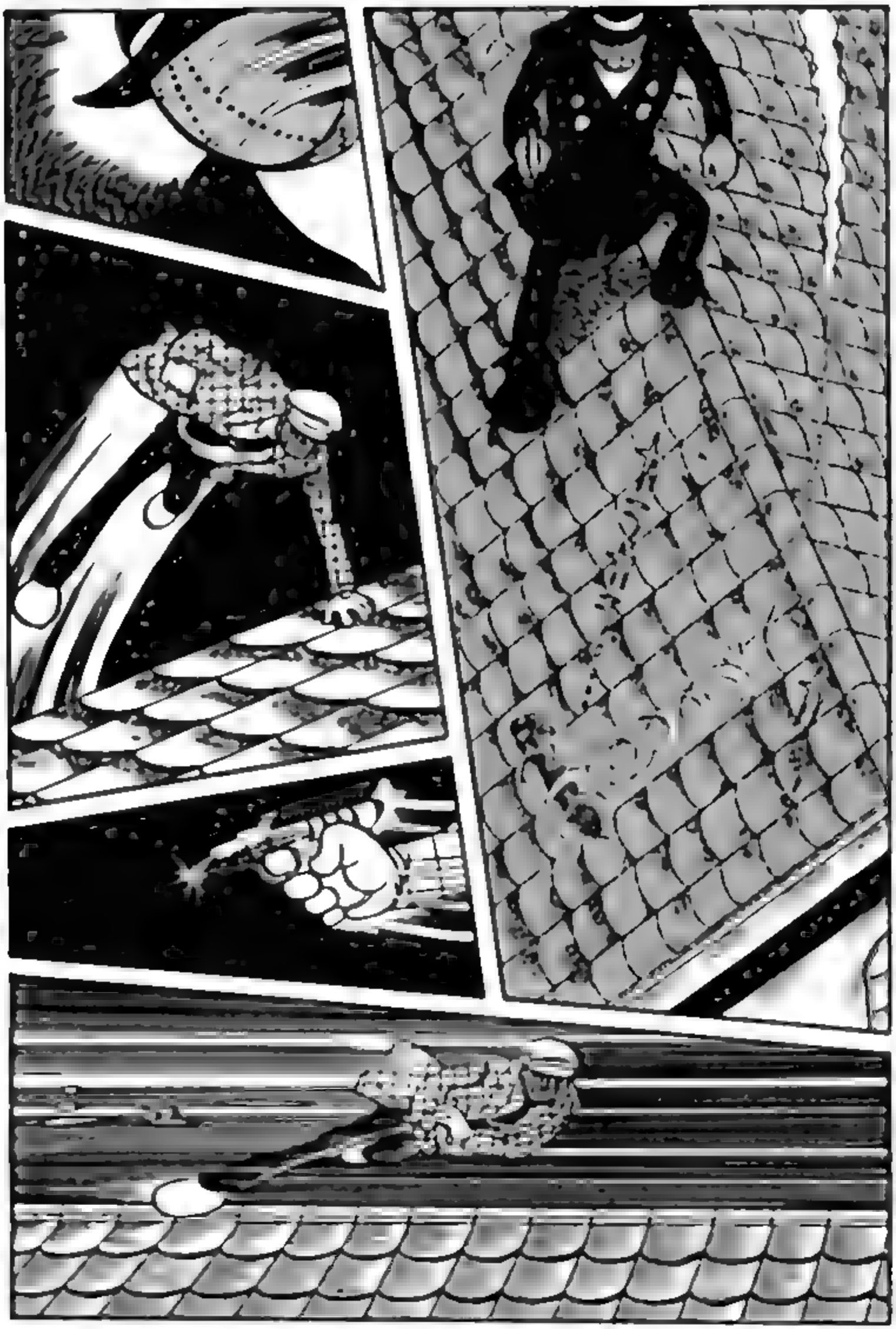
I HAVE NO EXCUSE. BUT I HAD TO DO THIS IN ORDER TO KEEP THE ROBOT A SECRET.
I HAD SECRETLY ASKED HER TO SWITCH WITH ME.
...WAS ME.
YOU DARE TO DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS ON YOUR OWN?! EEEESH!!!
YOU BAS-TARD!! WHY DIDN'T I HEAR ABOUT THIS?!
WHYYY YOUUUU! —
K— KGGH!!
IT WILL BE LEAVING THE AIR VENT OUTSIDE.
OKAY. NOW, THEN, IN ABOUT TWO MINUTES...
EVERYONE, PLEASE COME THIS WAY.


PLEASE WATCH ...
THAT VENT, UP THERE.
OKAY, THAT'S EN-OUGH.
PLEASE COME DOWN AND REFORM!
AND THAT'S HOW IT HAP-PENED.

S-SO JUST A WHILE AGO... THAT SASAKI THAT WE WERE CHASING AROUND THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD WAS...?!
YES, IT WAS THIS. IT TOOK ON THE FORM ON SASAKI IN ORDER TO MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE THE REAL CULPRIT!
THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY HIRED THE ROBOT...
WHO IS IT, THEN?!
WELL... WELL... WELL... WELL, THEN, THE REAL CULPRIT...
TO EXTRAPOLATE A BIT FURTHER FROM THERE, IT MIGHT LEAD TO THE CON-CLUSION THAT-
THIS FORM-CHANGING ROBOT'S COMMAND CIRCUITRY WAS ONLY PROGRAMMED TO KILL 3 PEOPLE IN THE HOUSE.


EVERYONE, PLEASE TAKE COVER!!
OH, NO!!


NGH
//



EYAAAAAH!!
AH...
THAT VOICE...?!

AH...
AHH!
MISS MAIKO?!
Y...
Y...
YOU...

SHE'S STILL ALIVE!!
IT'S OKAY!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE SO DAMN PRIDEFUL THAT THIS...
YOU GREASY RUST-BUCKET !!
WERE THE WIFE, THE MOTHER, AND THE DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE.
THE ONLY PEOPLE THE ASSASSIN ROBOT WAS PROGRAMMED TO KILL...
SHE WAS ONLY HALFWAY TO BEING STRANGLED.
LOOKS LIKE THE CULPRIT WAS IN A HURRY...
IS OHSATO SANZOU HIMSELF!!
WHICH WOULD MEAN...
THE TRUE CULPRIT HERE...

AND MORE THAN THAT, YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT WOMAN APART FROM YOUR WIFE THAT YOU LOVE!
YOU DID NOT HAVE ANY MONEY OF YOUR OWN.
WHICH IS WHY YOU SAW YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER AS NOTHING BUT HINDERANCES. YOU THOUGHT THAT BY KILLING THEM, THEIR FORTUNE WOULD BECOME YOURS!
AND BY ENLISTING THE HELP OF THE R.R.A., YOU PUT THAT PLAN INTO MOTION!
YOU SAW THE PERFECT PERSON TO FRAME FOR THE MURDERS IN SASAKI, WHO YOU STILL HAD BITTER FEELINGS TOWARDS!
THAT... THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!!
THEREFORE, YOU DECIDED TO END IT WITH YOUR OWN HANDS... BY STRANGLING YOUR DAUGHTER, YOURSELF!!
BUT BEFORE YOU COULD ELIMINATE YOUR DAUGHTER, WE APPREHENDED THE R.R.A. ROBOT YOU HIRED!
WHAT'S THIS?!
WHA... WHA...
OHSATO SANZOU... IT WAS YOU!!
IN THE CASE FILES FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, THERE WAS A RECORD ON YOU!
IT SAID THAT YOU WERE MARRIED INTO THE OHSATO HOUSEHOLD... ALL YOUR FORTUNE ACTUALLY BELONGED TO YOUR WIFE!

SURELY SOMEONE SAW ME GET HERE, RIGHT? DIDN'T YOU!?

I-I ONLY GOT HERE JUST NOW, LIKE THE REST OF YOU!

AH... AH, THAT'S RIGHT!

THAT'S A RIDICU- LIE!! LOUS... W-WHO COULD BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

HEY... HEY! SOMEBODY SAY SOMETHING!!

YOU DON'T ACTU- ALLY BELIEVE... THIS STUPID IDEA, DO YOU!?

BUT JUST FOR THAT... YOU REALLY THINK I'D KILL MY ENTIRE FAMILY!? DO YOU!?

AND IT'S TRUE THAT SHE ASKED THE OTHER WOMEN IN THE HOUSEHOLD TO HELP HER HIDE IT!

IT... IT'S TRUE, BY WIFE DOES HAVE CONTROL OF THE FORTUNE...

LET US HAVE MISS MAIKO DECIDE WHETHER IT'S A LIE OR NOT.

NGH...

……

WHO WAS IT THAT TRIED TO STRANGLE YOU?!

MISS MAIKO...

TELL THEM I WOULD NEVER...

TRY TO STRANGLE MY DARLING DAUGHTER!!

GO AHEAD AND SAY IT!

TELL THEM IT WASN'T ME!

NOW... NOW, MAIKO ...

FATHER?!

S--STOP IT!!

EEEYAAAH!!!

LOOKS LIKE THAT SETTLES IT, THEN.

TH... THAT... THAT'S NOT!!

BAH! THE REASON SHE WAS SO SHOCKED WAS BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE HER FATHER WAS ABOUT TO KILL HER!

M-MAIKO WAS JUST SHOCKED!! THAT DOESN'T PROVE I DID IT!!!

IT'S NOT TRUE!!! IT'S ALL A LIE!!!

I DID KNOW ABOUT HIS FORTUNE BEING OWNED BY THE WOMEN OF THE HOUSE, BUT...

I NEVER IMAGINED SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN...

IF IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF MONEY, THEY ARE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING... NO MATTER HOW THOUGHTLESS OR SHADY IT MIGHT BE!

RGH...

RRRG HHH...

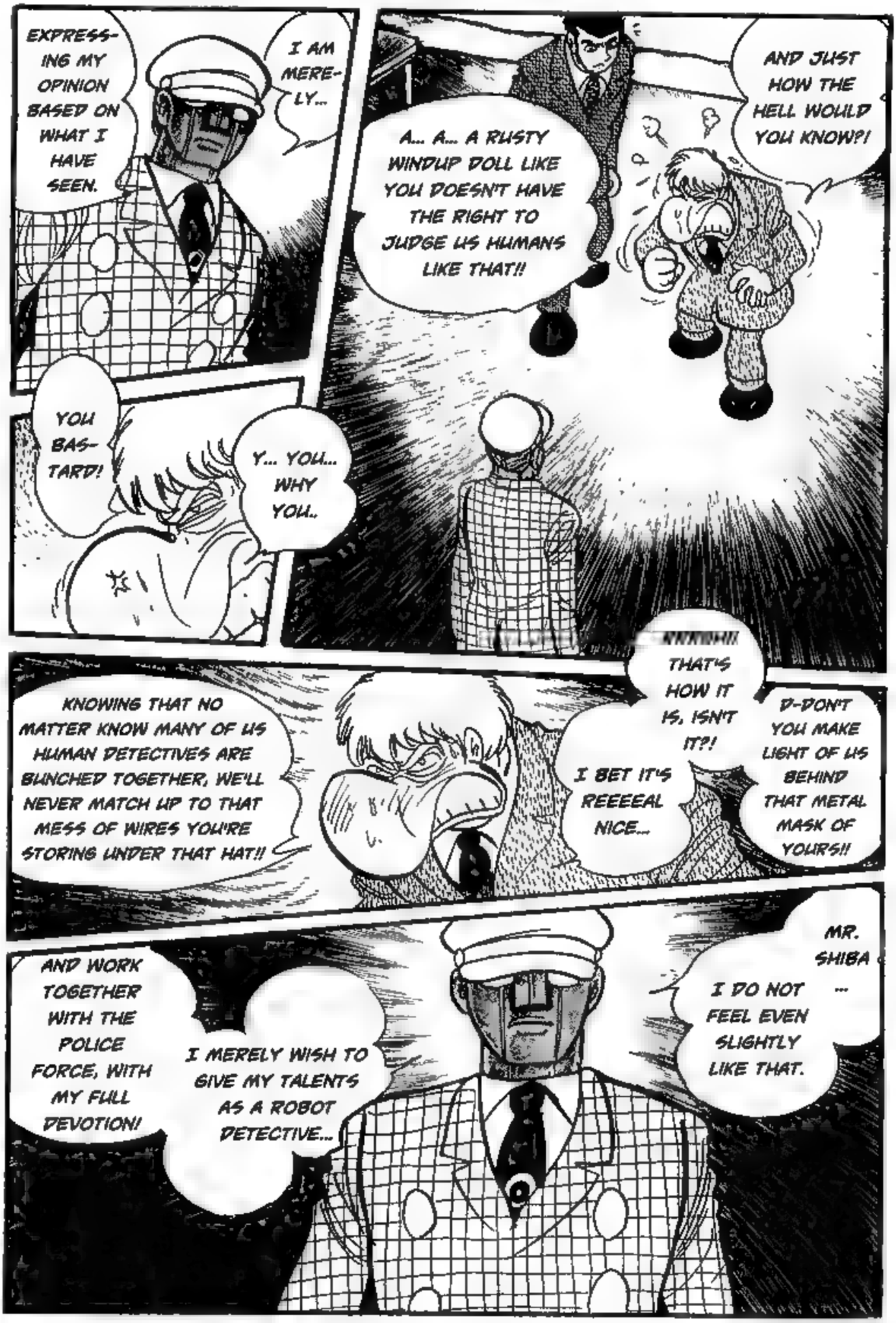
MAI-KOOOO !!!

YOU' RE WRONG !!

IT WASN'T ME...

OR AT LEAST, OF THE MODERN JAPANESE MAN, IS ENTIRELY BASED AROUND MONEY.

THE MOTIVA-TION OF HUMANS...


EXPRESSING MY OPINION BASED ON WHAT I HAVE SEEN.
I AM MERELY...
A... A... A RUSTY WINDUP DOLL LIKE YOU DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO JUDGE US HUMANS LIKE THAT!!
AND JUST HOW THE HELL WOULD YOU KNOW?!
YOU BASTARD!
Y... YOU... WHY YOU..
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER KNOW MANY OF US HUMAN DETECTIVES ARE BUNCHED TOGETHER, WE'LL NEVER MATCH UP TO THAT MESS OF WIRES YOU'RE STORING UNDER THAT HAT!!
I BET IT'S REEEEAL NICE...
THAT'S HOW IT IS, ISN'T IT?!
D-DON'T YOU MAKE LIGHT OF US BEHIND THAT METAL MASK OF YOURS!!
AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THE POLICE FORCE, WITH MY FULL DEVOTION!
I MERELY WISH TO GIVE MY TALENTS AS A ROBOT DETECTIVE...
I DO NOT FEEL EVEN SLIGHTLY LIKE THAT.
MR. SHIBA ...

I MEAN, YOU DID SAY THAT THIS WASN'T THE WORK OF SASAKI...

DID YOU THINK THAT OHSATO SANZOU WAS SUSPICIOUS FROM THE START THEN?

...

SOMEONE WITHOUT MONEY LIKE SASAKI WOULD CERTAINLY NEVER BE ABLE TO ENLIST THEIR HELP!

AND IN A COMPANY, ONE SEEKS TO EARN MONEY. AND SINCE THAT IS THE CASE...

IND-EED.

THE R.R.A. IS A COMPANY.

AH... HUHH ?!

YOU?!

EEEEEEEEK!!

カ

IT... IT WAS HIDING IN THIS SLIDING CLOSET!!
HER... HER NECK IS BROKEN...! SHE'S DEAD!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

MR. SHIN-JOOOOO!!
IT SEEMS THAT ONCE HE WAS ARRESTED, SASAKI GAVE A VERY ENERGETIC CONFESSION!
THAT HE ENLISTED A HITMAN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE "R.R.A.", AND THAT HE WAS DOING IT OUT OF REVENGE!!
I JUST GOT IN CONTACT WITH YAMADA, WHO WAS SCOUTING OUT SASAKI'S APARTMENT!!

EE HEE HEE... HEE...

TELL THEM IT WASN'T ME...

HEE... HEE HEE...

HEE... EH HEE HEE... MAIK-OOO...

PLEASE, TELL THEM...

RATHER THAN KILL OHSATO DIRECTLY, HE CHOSE A MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE METHOD...

TO TAKE HIS REVENGE !!

...SASAKI CERTAINLY BORE MORE THAN ENOUGH OF A GRUDGE AGAINST OHSATO...

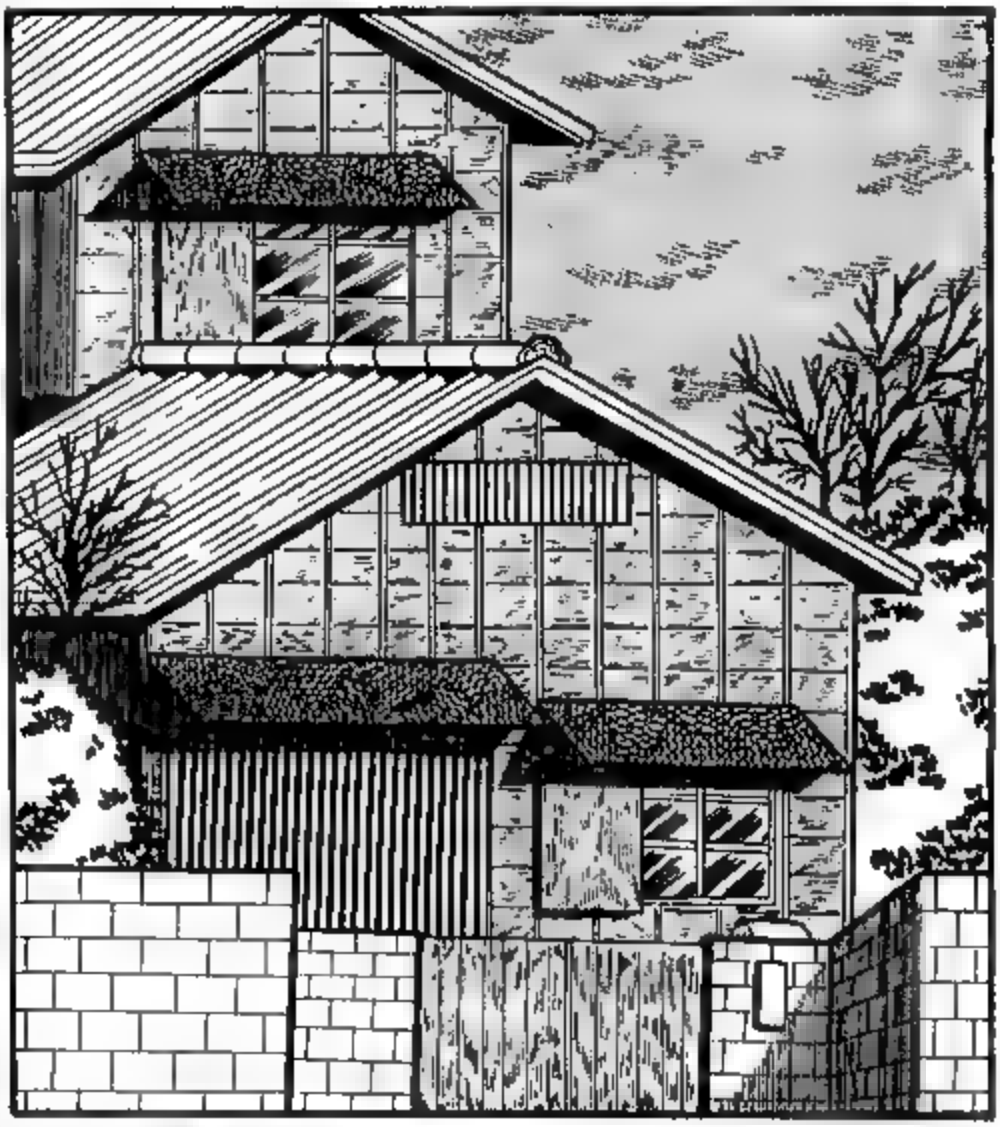
I-EEEE

I WAS... WRONG...!

I... I WAS... I...

THE BOSS OF THE R.R.A. MIGHT NOT CARE ABOUT MONEY... HE MIGHT BE A STRANGE MAN WHO SUBSCRIBES TO THE ART OF THE CRIME... A HEINOUS CRIMINAL. YOU JUST NEVER KNOW.
THE HUMAN MIND...
IS MORE COMPLICATED AND FRIGHTENING THAN YOUR CIRCUITRY CAN HOPE TO COMPREHEND!

WEL-
COME
HOME!

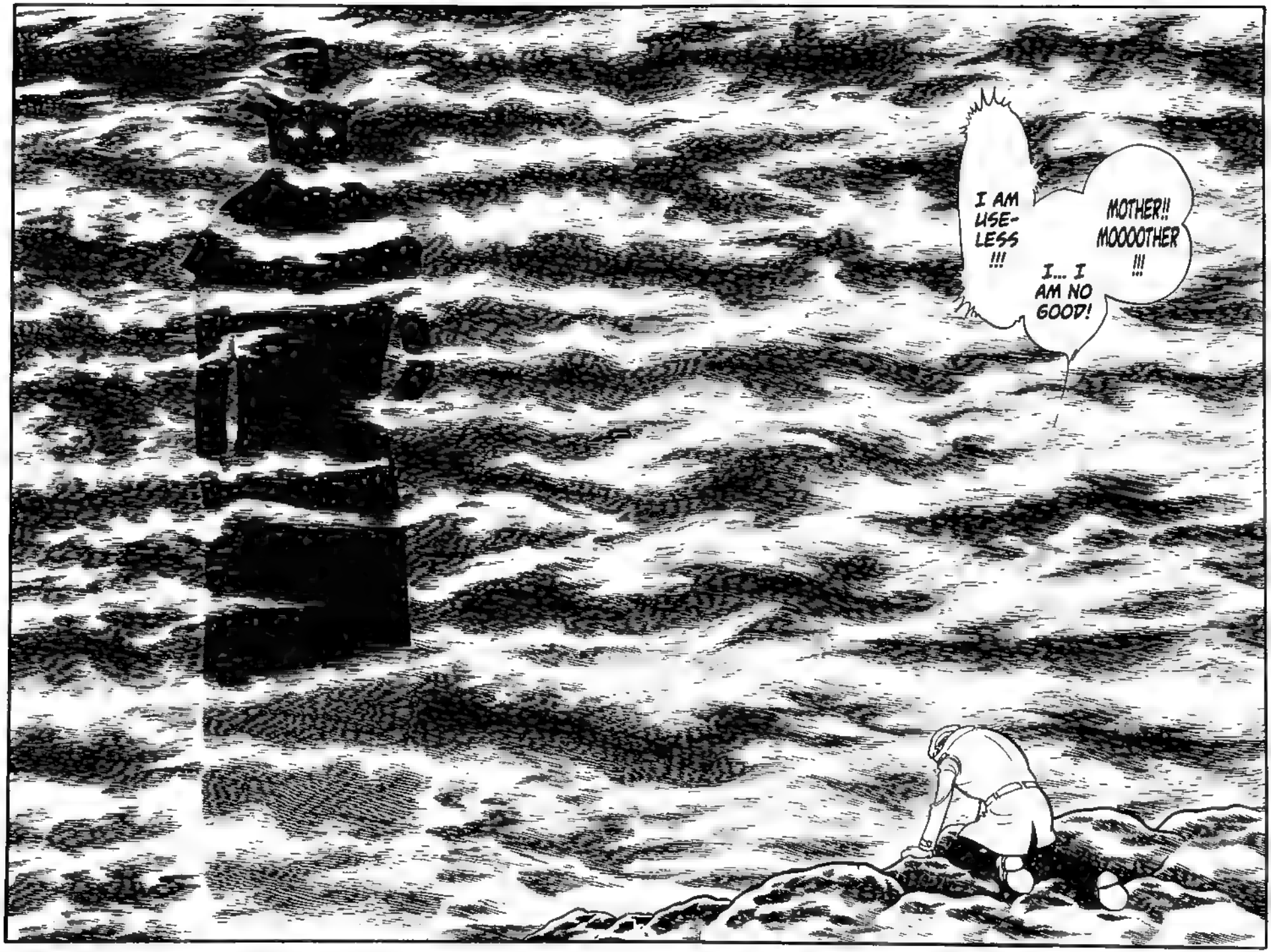


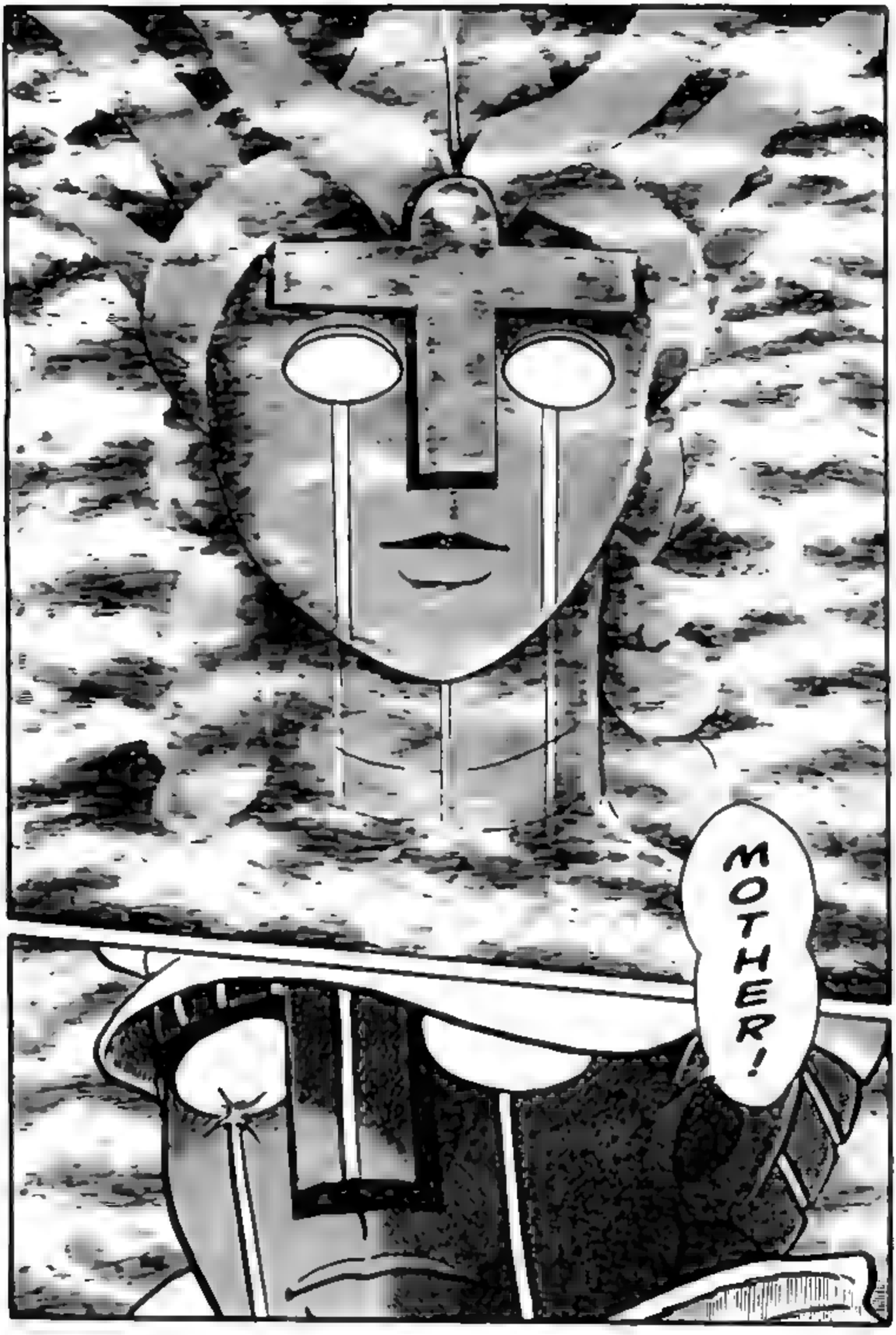
YEAH
...
WH-
ERE'S
K?

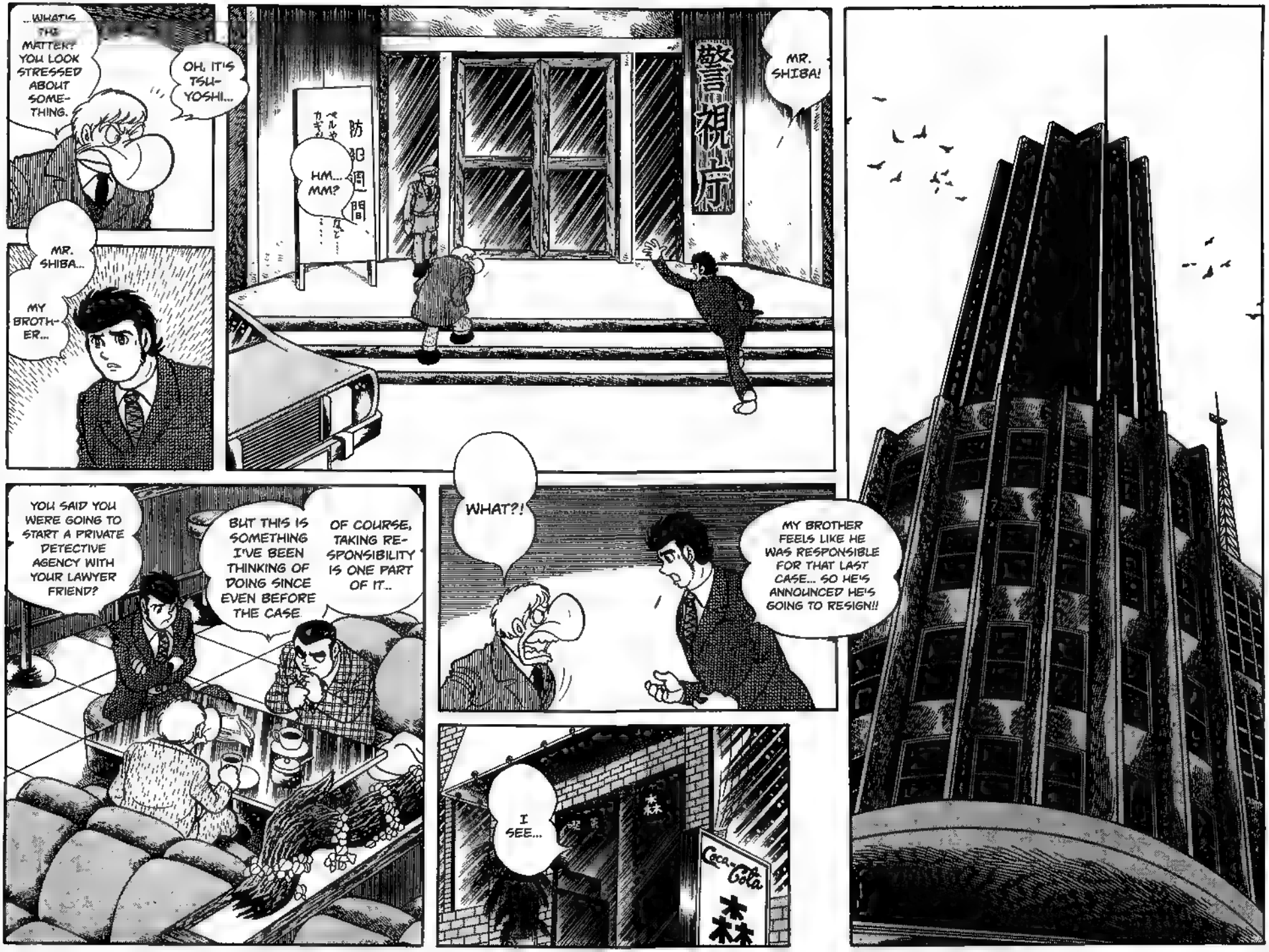
...I SEE.
SO HE'S
NOT BACK
YET.
OH? HE
ISN'T WITH
YOU?!

...
?

I WANT YOU
TO TELL HIM
SOMETHING
KIND...
NAMI...
IF K
DOES
COME
BACK...


I AM USE-LESS !!!
I... I AM NO GOOD!
MOTHER!! MOOOOTHER !!!


MOTHER!


...WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK STRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING.
OH, IT'S TSUYOSHI...
MR. SHIBA...
MY BROTHER...
警視庁
MR. SHIBA!
HM... MM?
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO START A PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY WITH YOUR LAWYER FRIEND?
BUT THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE BEEN THINKING OF DOING SINCE EVEN BEFORE THE CASE.
OF COURSE, TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IS ONE PART OF IT...
WHAT?!
MY BROTHER FEELS LIKE HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT LAST CASE... SO HE'S ANNOUNCED HE'S GOING TO RESIGN!!
I SEE...
Coca-Cola

I FEEL LIKE THE NUMBER AND KIND OF CRIMES IN THIS CITY HAS CHANGED INTO SOMETHING THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN! WHICH IS WHY THE POLICE FORCE ALONE...

TO THE POINT WHERE EVEN THE AMERICAN MAFIA HAS STARTED SNEAKING IN!

TOKYO IS ONE OF THE MOST DENSELY POPULATED CITIES IN THE WORLD!

BUT THAT'S EXACTLY THE REASON WHY...

PRIVATE DETECTIVES WORKING ON THEIR OWN AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

OF COURSE, THE NUMBER OF CRIMES IS GOING UP, AND BY A LOT AT THAT

THAT'S REAL CUTE, KEITA-ROU.

BUT STILL...

I MIGHT JUST MAKE MORE MOCKABLE MISTAKES LIKE WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS CASE.

...IF I'M IN A GROUP LIKE THAT...

WELL, I HAVE TO CONCEDE THAT MUCH TO YOU, MR. SHIBA.

YOU'RE A STUBBORN FOOL.

I'VE ALREADY DECIDED ON THAT!

...NONETHELESS, I WANT TO SEE JUST HOW MUCH I CAN ACCOMPLISH ON MY OWN.

... YEAH.
...DAMMIT!
IT'S TRUE, TWO OF THE THREE WERE KILLED BECAUSE WE COULDN'T STOP THEM, BUT...
FOR THE DAUGHTER, IF THAT GUY HADN'T RUINED IT ALL WITH HIS WHOLE GRANDSTANDING, SHE COULD'VE LIVED"!
DON'T YOU THINK SO TOO, MR. SHIBA?!
THAT PART WAS ALL BECAUSE ...
K COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHO THE TRUE CULPRIT WAS.
... YEAH.
FIGURES... HE DID WELL TO A POINT, BUT...
A MACHINE IS JUST A MACHINE, IN THE END!
OH YEAH! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM, MR SHIBA?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, TODAY...
THAT IDIOT... HE NEVER CAME BACK, LAST NIGHT!
HMM?
OH, K, YOU MEAN?

AND WHAT THAT MEANS... IS THAT IT MIGHT JUST BE THE FAULT OF THE PERSON THAT USES THAT MACHINE... WHICH WOULD BE... ME.

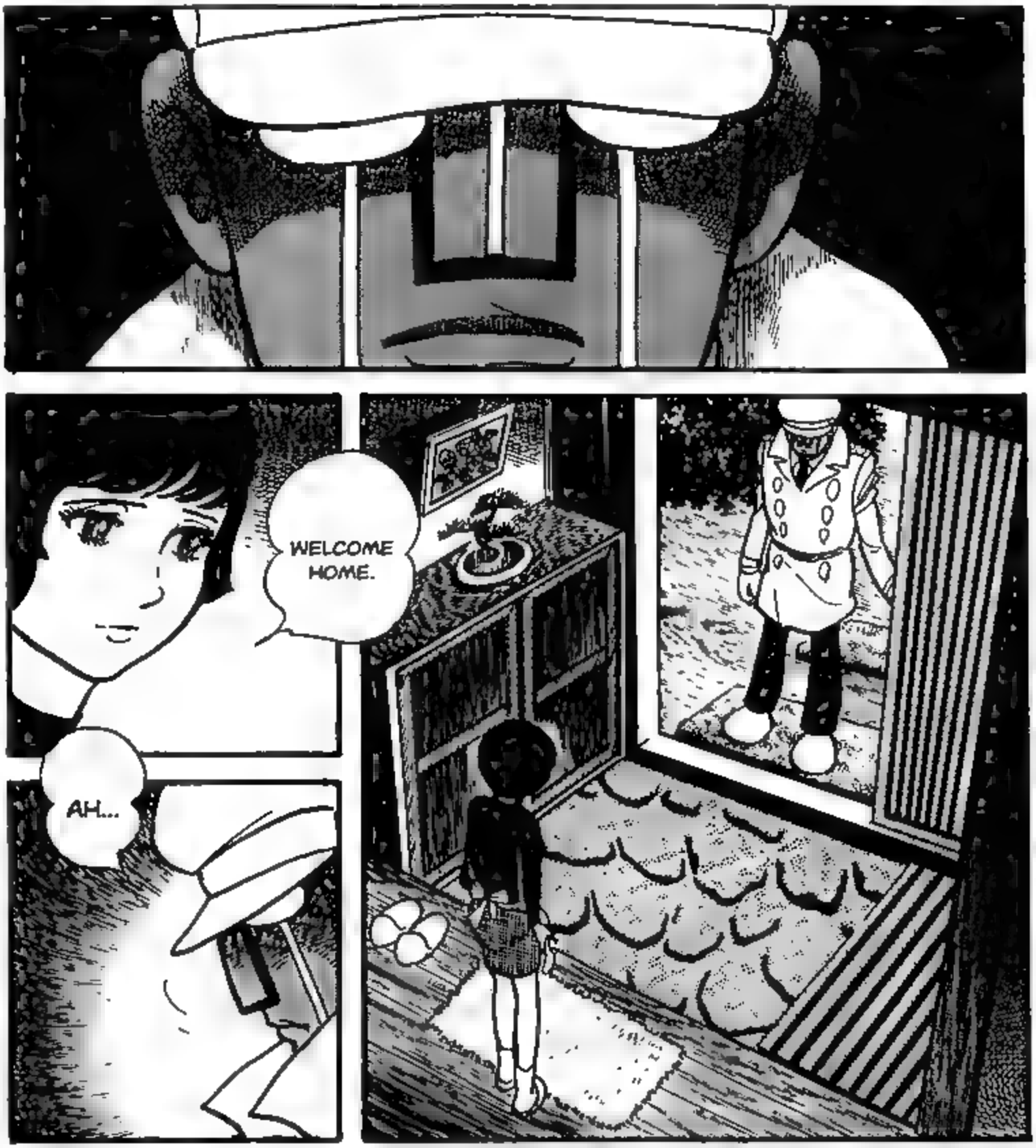
HE'S A MACHINE... A BYPRODUCT OF SCIENCE!

...IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY, TSUYOSHI...

HE MUST'VE RESIGNED!

HEH! GUESS HE KNOWS IT WAS HIS FAULT, THEN.

...


WELCOME HOME.
AH...

SO I TOOK THE DAY OFF
I DIDN'T WANT FOR THERE TO BE NO ONE HOME WHEN YOU CAME BACK..
WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
M... MISS NAMI... YOU ARE HERE, RIGHT NOW?

..YES, MA'AM.
NOW, THEN, COME ON IN!
MM... IT'S OKAY.
..I AM SORRY.
HE'S AT THE POLICE STATION, OF COURSE.
EXCUSE ME... WHERE IS MR. SHIBA?
STILL?
SO... IS MR. SHIBA... ANGRY?
HE ACTED COOL, SAYING THAT AS LONG AS THERE'S CRIME, THERE'S NO REST FOR A DETECTIVE...
YES... HE LOOKED VERY TIRED, SO I TOLD HIM HE SHOULD REST FOR THE DAY, BUT...
FATHER WAS VERY WORRIED!
AH...
WHY DO YOU ASK?

AND... AND BECAUSE OF THAT MISTAKE...

A PERSON DIED, SO I... I...

I MADE AN INEXCUSABLE MISTAKE!

BUT...

BUT I...

BUT SHE...

MY MOTHER TOLD ME I WAS A COWARD... AND THAT ONE WORD WAS ALL SHE SAID TO ME...

I... WENT TO TALK WITH MY MOTHER...

...I TALKED WITH FATHER EARLIER TODAY...

AND HE SAID THAT WHAT HAPPENED WASN'T YOUR FAULT ALONE.

M... MR. SHIBA...

HE SAID SUCH KIND WORDS?!

TRU... TRULY?!

MISS NAMI...

MM-HMM.

GOOD AFTER-NOON!

WHEN HE HEARD THAT YOU WERE AROUND THE HOUSE TODAY, HE MADE ME BRING HIM BACK WITH ME...

OH, HELLO, FATHER!

AND MR. SHINJO, TOO!

...WEL-COME HOME, SIR

YOU IDIOT !!!!!

I WENT TO SEE MY MOTHER FOR A BIT...

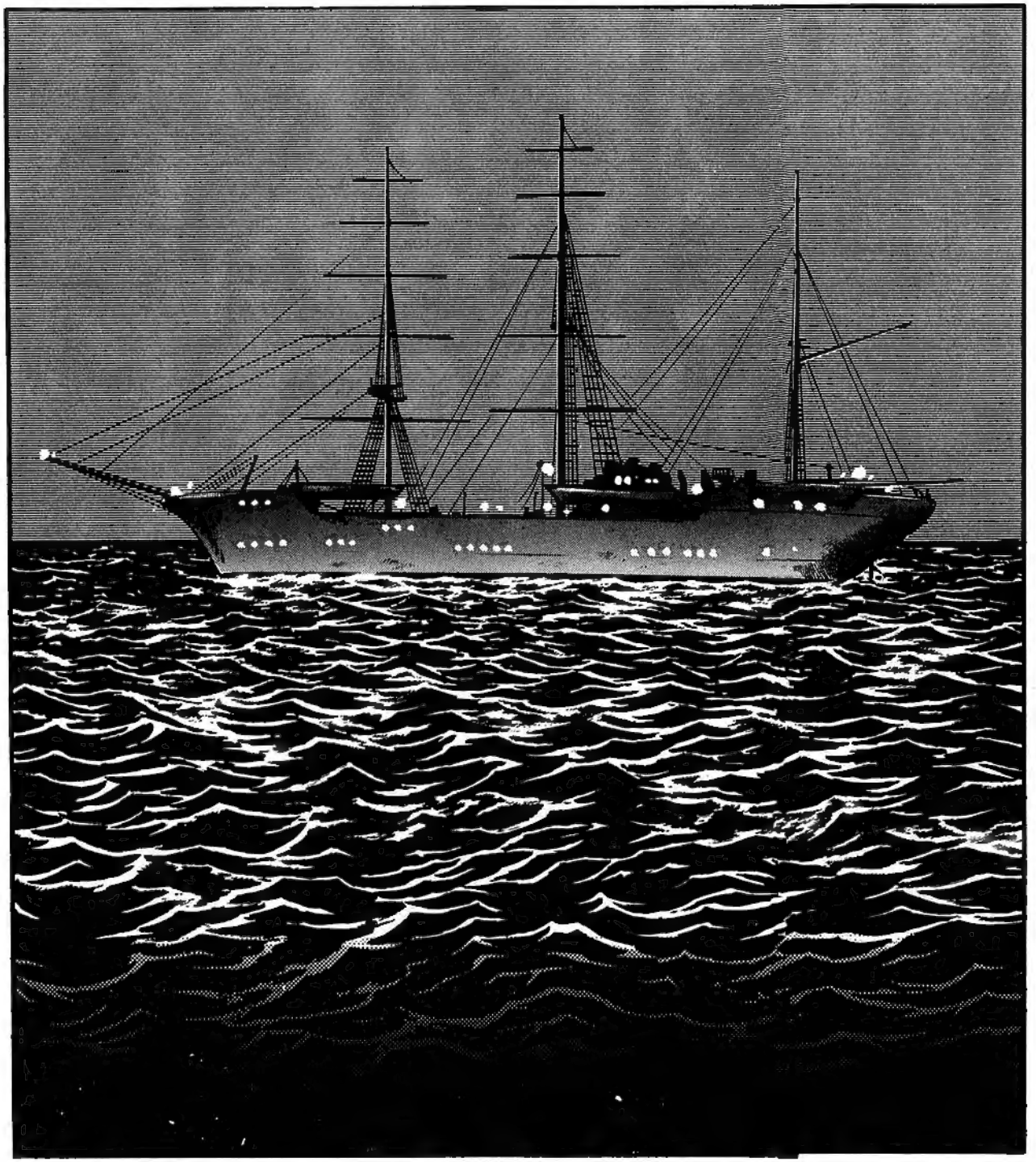
I'M SORRY ...

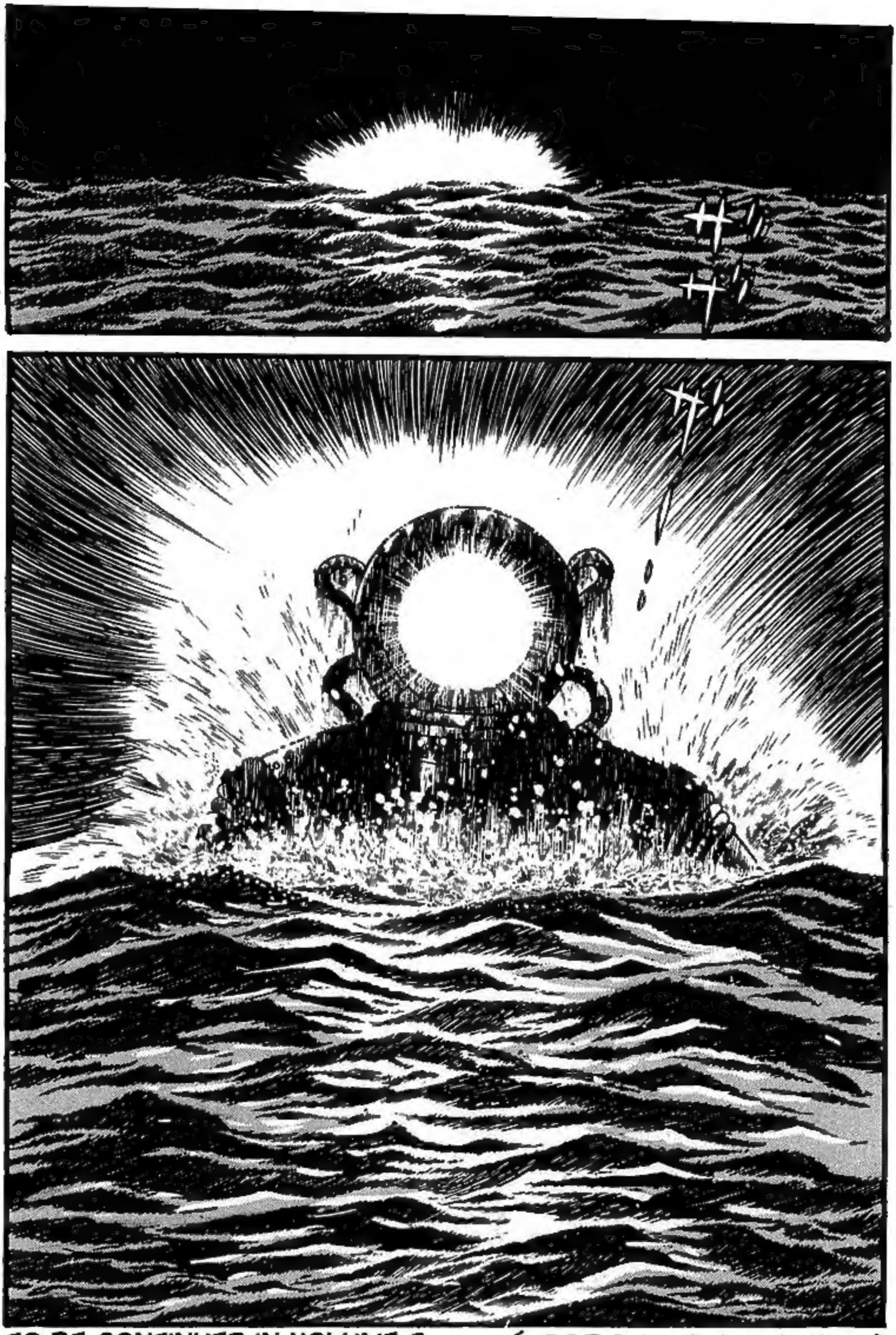
THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF CASES TO WORK ON, RIGHT NOW!!

IF YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TIME TO RUN CRYING TO YOUR MOMMY, YOU SHOULD BE USING IT TO WORK!

...I FIGURED IT'D BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

AH...





TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

[ROBOT KEIJI 1 / END]

ロボット刑事[1]

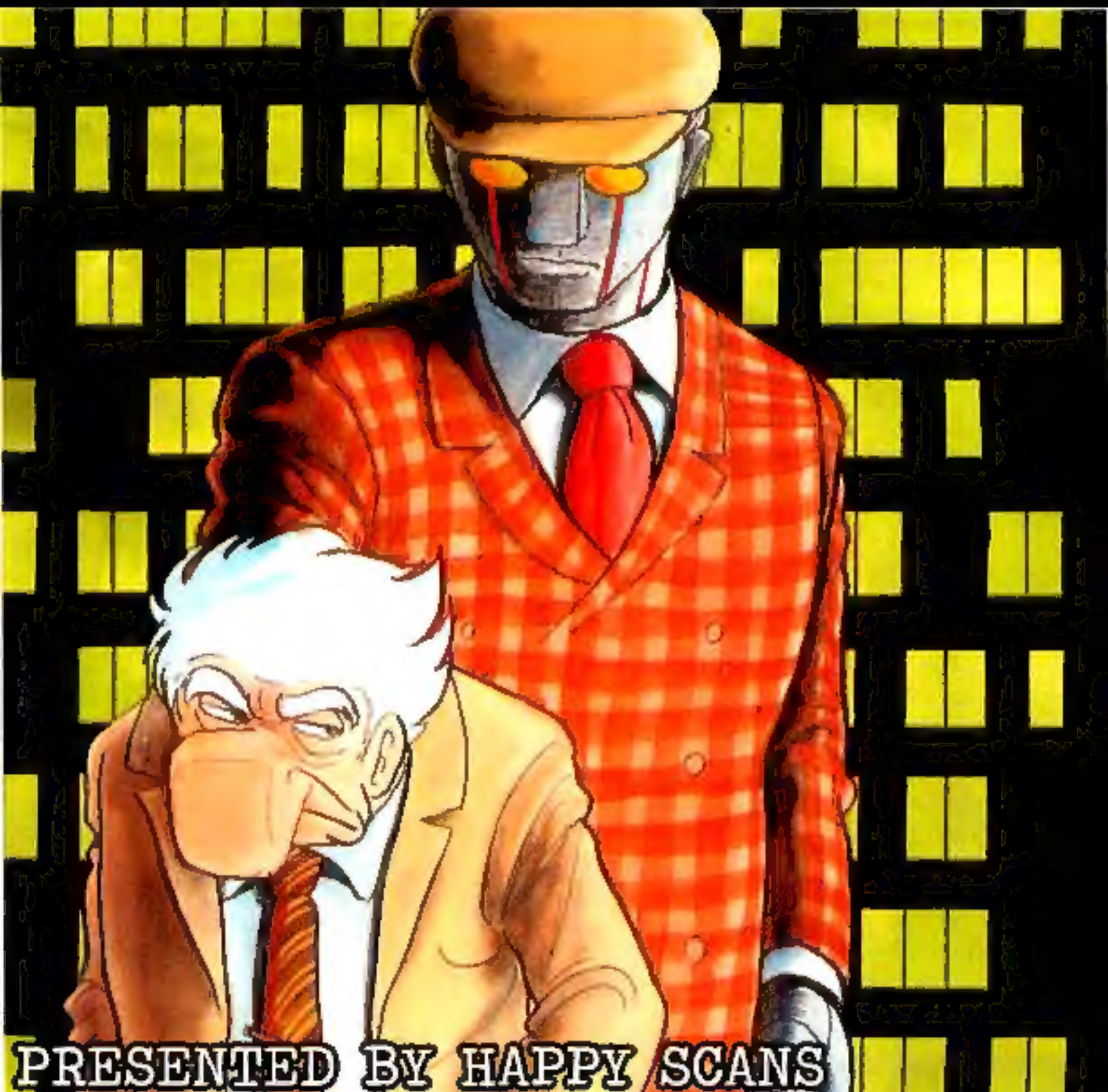
石森章太郎
©Shotaro Ishimori

発行人　喜　久　村　　徹
印　刷　フォト印刷株式会社
製　本　大和製本株式会社

発行所　株式会社 朝日ソノラマ
東京都中央区銀座4丁目2番6号　第2朝日ビル
郵便番号　104
TEL(563)6021　振替　東京2-40311

ISBN4-257-96039-6

ROBOT KEIJI



PRESENTED BY HAPPY SCANS

Translated by Sonickrazy
Cleaned by Wright
Typesetting by Kazuhiko
chapters 1-11, 13
Kaze chapter 12

VOLUME 1